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Joseph. Patten



Æ S O P ' S

F A B L E S :

W I T H H I S

L I F E

MORALS, and REMARKS,

F I T T E D F O R T H E

M E A N E S T C A P A C I T I E S .

To which are added,

Five other FABLES in PROSE and VERSE.



G L A S G O W :

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L I F E O F Æ S O P

WHAT Æsop was by birth, authors do not agree; but that he was in a mean condition, and his person deformed to the highest degree, is what all affirm: He was flat-faced, hunch-backed, blubber-lipped, jolt-headed; his body crooked all over, big-belly'd, baker-legged, and of a swarthy complexion. But the excellency and beauty of his mind, made a sufficient atonement for the outward appearance of his person: For, the first account we have of him in history, is, That being sent to Ephesus, in company with other slaves, to be sold, his master had a great many burdens to carry, and Æsop begged of his companions not to overload him: They found him a weakling, and bade him please himself. The parcel that he pitched upon was a panier of bread, twice as heavy as any of the rest: They called him a thousand fools for his pains, and so took up their baggage, and away they went. About noon they had their dinner, out of Æsop's basket, which made his burden one half lighter in the afternoon, than it had been in the morning, and after the next meal, he had nothing to carry but an empty basket, which made his fellow slaves know, that he had more

wit than themselves. Upon the master's arrival at Ephesus, he soon sold off all his slaves but Æsop, and other two, whom he carried to Samos, as the likeliest place for a chapman. He shewed them in the open market, and there they were viewed by one Xanthus, an eminent philosopher in the city, who was mightily pleased with the two youths, and asked them what they could do? The one said, he could do every thing, which set Æsop a laughing; which the philosopher perceiving, asked what he could do? Nothing at all, says he. How comes that, says the philosopher? *My companion*, says he, *undertakes every thing, so there is nothing left for me to do.* Which gave the philosopher to understand he was no fool: So he asked the merchant his lowest price for that ill-favour'd fellow? Why, says he, if you'll give me my price for the other two, you shall have him into the bargain. The philosopher immediately pays the money, and takes Æsop along with him. While he was in this philosopher's service, several things happened betwixt them, too long to be mentioned here; only I cannot omit to speak of Æsop's ingenious invention, to bring his mistress back again. After Xanthus' stock of patience was quite spent in bearing with her, he was resolv'd to use severity, since nothing could be done by kindness: but this made her worse and away she went. Bad as she was, he would have been glad to have her back again: but nothing would do. Æsop seeing

seeing his master quite out of humour, *Come master,* says he, *I'll bring my mistress back to you, with as good will as ever she went from you.* Æsop immediately goes to market, and bespeaks what was the best in season, and tells every body that his master was going to marry again, and this was to be the wedding-feast. The news flew like lightning, and coming to his mistress' ears, away she posted back to her husband. No, Xanthus, says she, *don't think that you shall have another wife while I live;* and so kept the house close afterwards. After this, there happened a strange thing at Samos: For an eagle had snatched up the town seal, and dropt it into the bosom of a slave. They consulted all the wise men about it, and especially Xanthus, who was at a loss what to think on it. Æsop hearing of it, went before the town-council, and told them the meaning of it was, that some great king had a design to take away their liberties: This satisfied them so well that they proclaimed Æsop a free man. Shortly after, as he had foretold, there came ambassadors from Cræsus, king of Lydia, demanding tribute, and threatening them with war in case of a refusal. Most part of them were for paying the tribute: but Æsop's advice put them off on't. The king came afterwards to understand how Æsop, by the power of a few words, diverted them: he sent them word that he would put a stop to the war, if they would deliver up Æsop to him. They would not, but he

he would needs go himself. When he came before the king, he looked upon him with disdain: but when he heard him speak, he was so moved with the modesty and wisdom of the man, that he not only pardoned him; but also, for his sake, forgave the Samians the tribute he demanded. After this, returning to Samos, he was joyfully received by the citizens, who erected a statue to him. Æsop, after this, travelled to Babylon and Egypt, where he was kindly entertained, and gained great reputation by his wisdom. After this he went to Greece, and had the curiosity to visit Delphos, for the Oracle's sake: when he came there, he found matters quite otherwise than he expected; and having given his opinion of them, the magistrates took great offence at his freedom; and fearing lest he should give the same character of them elsewhere, and so lose the reputation they had in the world for piety and wisdom, entered into a conspiracy to take away his life; so they caused a golden cup to be secretly conveyed into his baggage, when he was taking up to depart. He was no sooner out of town, but pursued, taken up, and charged with sacrilege, and so hurried away to prison. He was next day brought into the court, and condemned to die: His sentence was to be thrown down headlong from a high rock,



T H E

P R E F A C E.

THE usual way of teaching by tales and fables, is so pleasing and instructive, and is so many times over and over recommended by the greatest and wisest men of all ages, as that which makes the deepest impression on the mind, and comes most lively to the understanding, not only of men, but even of children, that it would be lost labour to insist on its commendation. All the precepts and counsels of the ancients, for ordering our lives and manners, have been handed down to us under such veils and figures; and every one knows the frequent and edifying use of them in scripture. Christ himself has recommended this way of teaching by parables, both in his doctrine and practice, well knowing that the images would much more affect men's minds, than the strongest and most persuading way of reasoning. Besides, we have a convincing proof of this in ancient history: for when the common people

of

of Rome were in a direct mutiny against their magistrates, that they would neither pay taxes, nor bear arms, the sedition ran so high, that all the arguments the senators made use of could not reclaim them, until Menenius Agrippa did it by this fable: "The hands and feet were in a desperate mutiny against the belly once: they knew no reason, they said, that the one should lie idle and pamper itself with the fruit of the other's labour; and if the belly would not share in the work, they would be no longer at the charge of maintaining it. Upon this mutiny they kept the belly too long without nourishment, and all the other parts suffered for it, insomuch that the hands and feet came at last to find their mistake, and would have been willing then to have done their office, but it was too late; for the belly was so pined with overfasting, that it was quite out of condition to receive the benefit of relief; which gave them to understand that the body and members are to live and die together."

Now, says he, if you withdraw your service, you'll find your mistake when 'tis too late. So by this means he brought them to their wits again.

T H E

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Æ S O P'S FABLES OR TALES.

FABLE I. The EAGLE and FOX.



THE Eagle and Fox resolving to stand by, and comfort and relieve each other in the course of their lives, whatever should befall them; they agreed to be neighbours, whereby the bond of friendship they had lately entered into, might be the more lasting and firm, so as never to be violated or broken. The Eagle thereupon made choice of a tall tree for her abode; the Fox, her fickle friend and ally, of a thicket of brambles hard by, to enjoy the friendship and society of her good neighbour and confederate. The Fox being abroad, searching after prey to maintain herself and young; in the mean while, the Eagle, being hungry, flew down from her nest to the thicket, where finding the cubs unguarded by their
B dam,

dam, laying her talons upon them, straightway carried them away to her nest, where, not long after, she and her young ones feasted upon them. The Fox returning, quickly discovered the guilty offender; the grief arising from her not being able to revenge the injury, more afflicting her than the loss and untimely death of her cubs: for, being unfurnished with wings, she knew not how to come at her avowed enemy and robber. In this case, not being able to be even with her treacherous friend, she fell to cursing and banning her, the only return she then could make. Some time after, a goat being sacrificed in the open field, down flies the Eagle, and snatches away a piece with the live coals that hung to it, and thus carried the burnt sacrifice to her hungry Eagles. A high wind chancing at that instant to blow, the coals set fire to the nest, and down fell the young ones singed with the flame. The Fox espying this, hastened to the place, and instantly buried them in her guts, to the no little grief of the dam that beheld the act.

The M O R A L.

The foregoing tale may stand us in stead upon occasion, viz. When injured persons are unable to deal with them that wrong'd them, Divine Justice will be even with them, and right the sufferers.

The R E M A R K.

Friendship is a large subject, and a very copious theme, had ope a mind to enlarge and dwell thereon. Many, and many are they, whose strict and inviolable amity has kept their memorials alive to this day, and preserved their fame and renown from being buried in the silent grave
of

of oblivion with them. Ancient histories abound with examples of this kind. And the truth of it is, when all is said, that can be said about it, it will prove scanty and fall very short of the due esteem of the thing they enjoy, between whom it is founded. It is thereby one of the greatest blessings heaven can bestow upon mortals. Wherefore, in speaking to it, I shall be brief: He that broke his word, and disregarded the obligation he lay under, was from the beginning of the creation looked upon as a heinous criminal, and grievous offender. The instance here before us, of the insincerity of the Eagle, is so odious and abominable, that scarce one circumstance is wanting to aggravate and enhance it. It is painted to the life by Æsop's admirable pen, and the foul misdeed is, in all respects, quite contrary to cordial friendship and fair dealing. He, in whose heart unfeigned love and kindness lodges, will expose himself to any danger, if thereby he hopes to find and save his friend from the jeopardy and mischief that threatens him; which is agreeable to the doctrine of the apostle Paul, who tells us, *That for a righteous person one would even dare to die.*

F A B L E II.

The FOX and GOAT.



A Fox and a Goat being thirsty, got down to a well to allay it; which done, the

Goat being at a loss how to get out, the Fox to comfort her, said, Be of good cheer, and nothing dismayed; for I have thought upon a way and means, how thou shalt get up again, and escape the danger thou so much darest: for if thou wilt stand upright, leaning thy forefeet against the wall, and bending thy horns that way too, by means of that new-devised ladder, I getting first out, will afterwards haul thee out thence. The Goat readily consented to do what she was advised to: the Fox, by this machine, skipping out, danced about the mouth of the well, sporting and merry. But the Goat blamed her for not performing her promise, and not being as good as her word: to whom the Fox replied, Had thy head been as long as thy beard, thou wouldst not have ventured into the well, before thou hadst thought of a way to climb out of it again.

The M O R A L.

The use and profit arising from this tale shews us, that it is the part of a wise man seriously and maturely to consider and weigh the means of attaining the enterprize, as well as the end and issue of it, before he goes about it.

The R E M A R K.

Rash and unadvised attempts usually miscarry. What is blindly undertaken, the end seldom answers the hopes conceived of it; unless chance, which seldom falls out, second and favour the design. The experience of all ages has set its seal to this truth, and will, as long as time lasts, ratify and establish it.

F-A-B-L-E III.

The SWAN and GOOSE.



A Man stored with riches, and the good of this world, bred up a Goose and a Swan in his yard, but not for the same end: the Swan he fed to please his ear, the other his palate, whenever he should think fit to feed upon her. When the time came that the Goose was destined to die, and he upon the spit, in the evening, the owner intended to kill his Goose: but, delaying it too long, he could not discern which was which, and mistook the one for the other. Death approaching the Swan by misfortune, she falls to singing a melodious song, as a preparatory to her latter end, and by her harmony undeceived her master, whereby she escaped the imminent danger, and the terrible fear she was in quickly vanished.

The M O R A L.

The life of a creature is that which is dearest to it; and which is usually valued above all it enjoys beside: and therefore a man cannot be too tender and backward taking it away, when it is in his power to do it.

The R E M A R K.

Melody is often very useful, because it prolongs life when death is ready to put an end to it. 'Tis high time to look about when death is ready to seize us: all our thoughts are at work to devise a way how we may escape. Any shift, though ever so pitiful, if like to succeed, will serve the turn. By this we may see the subtlest contrivances miscarry; when others, a great deal more shallow, effect the business, and lead to safety and content.

F A B L E IV.

CUCKOO and HAWK.



BY the beak and claws of a Cuckoo, one would take her for a kind of Hawk; only the one lives upon worms, and the other upon flesh; infomuch, that a hawk, on a time, twitted a Cuckoo with her coarse way of feeding. If you would look like a hawk, why do you not live like a Hawk? the Cuckoo took this a little ill: but, flying by a dove-house some time after, she espied the skin of this very Hawk upon a pole, planted upon the top of the pigeon-house. Well, says the Cuckoo
within

within herself to the Hawk; and had you not as good have been eating worms as pigeons?

The M O R A L.

Pride is an abomination in the sight of God, and Judgment is just upon us, when the subject of our vanity becomes the occasion of our ruin.

The R E M A R K.

A safe mediocrity is much better than an envied and dangerous excellency. They that in their prosperity despise others, shall be sure in adversity to be despised themselves. It is much the same case with men of prey, that it is with birds of prey; they look on it as a discouragement to sort themselves with any other than the enemies of the public peace; but those that live upon rapine are set a mark upon as the common enemy, and all heads and hands are busy about their destruction.

F A B L E V.

A FLEA and a MAN.



THere was a fellow, that upon a flea biting, called to Hercules for help. The flea made her escape, and the man is angry upon the matter. Well, Hercules, says he, you that would not take my part against a sorry Flea, will never be my second in a time
of

of need against a more powerful enemy.

The M O R A L.

We slight God in matters and concerns of greater moment, and petition him for toys; nay, and take pet, at least, if we cannot speed and obtain our desires.

The R E M A R K.

'Tis an argument of a naughty disposition of mind, to turn offices and duties of piety in matters and words only of course, and to squander away our wishes and prayers upon what amounts to little less than downright fooleries and play game; when life and death, heaven and hell and the like weighty matters take not up our thoughts, nor busy our minds, we being wholly unconcerned about them. By this impertinent and foolish way of proceeding towards the Almighty, men slide by little and little into some sort of doubt, if not a direct disbelief and contempt of his power. And then, with the country fellow here, if we cannot obtain every vain thing we ask for, we patiently take pet at the refusal, and in revenge give over praying for good and all, and so part with heaven for a flea smart.

F A B L E VI.

The FOX and GRAPES.



U P O N a time, when a Fox would have ventured as far for a bunch of grapes as for a shoul-

shoulder of mutton; there was a Fox of those days, and of that place, that stood gaping under a vine, and licking his lips at a most delicious cluster of grapes that he espied out there. He fetched a hundred and a hundred leaps at it, till at last he was as weary as a dog, and found he availed nothing by it: Hang 'em (says he) they are four as crabs. And so away he went, turning off the disappointment with a jest.

The M O R A L.

When a man cannot, in a due manner, attain what he longs for, and aims at, it is a token he is endued with prudence and sound discretion, in giving over striving for it.

The R E M A R K.

It is a point of good discretion to make a virtue of necessity, and to content ourselves with what we can compass in an honest way, tho' we eagerly covet to have somewhat else. For it is a notable piece of craft and worldly wisdom, to seem to despise what we are unable to obtain, and put off a miscarriage with a jest. Beside, it is much more commendable to have people think a man could gain such and such a point, if he would, than that he would, but cannot. This fable affords us a notable piece of doctrine and instruction, that may prove very useful to us, if we heed it, in governing our lives, managing our affairs, and directing our conversation during our pilgrimage in this world. A prudent person, whom we should always strive to imitate, cannot, at least, will not change his countenance, at the frowns and smiles of giddy and inconstant fortune: he goes cheerfully on his way, whatever rubs and holes he meets with in it, disappointments that most of all afflict us, and exercise our patience and constancy, affect him very little. He knows the world, and expects nothing else from it.

FABLE VII.

A WOLF and KID.



A Kid, being in a place where no harm could reach her, espied a Wolf as he passed by, at whom she presently fell a railing and scoffing: to which the Wolf replied, 'Tis well you are out of my reach, otherwise I'd make you give better words.

The M O R A L.

Hence we learn this notable truth, that place and opportunity embolden many to do, what otherwise they would sooner eat their own nails than do.

The R E M A R K.

There is nothing more bold and saucy than a coward when he dreads no danger. This way of reviling and clamour is so arrant a mark of a dastardly wretch, that he does as good as call himself so, that uses it.

FABLE VIII.

A COCK and a PRECIOUS STONE.



A Cock, seeking for food upon a dung-hill, lighted upon a precious Stone, so called and esteemed by the foolish world. After he had viewed and considered it a while, thus thought within himself: a barley corn would have served my turn better, and nourished me, which the sight of this glittering stone cannot do.

The M O R A L.

Honest industry and pains never go unrewarded. Virtue itself is its own reward, if it meet with no other than an ungrateful age.

The R E M A R K.

The use and benefit this fable affords us is this, viz. that necessary things should direct and command our choice, before things that are not so, which tend to nothing else but disappointment and vanity, and to cease and gratify an idle and misled passion.

F A B L E

FABLE IX.

WOLF, KID, and GOAT.



A Goat, having occasion to go abroad, ordered her Kid to let nobody in that came to the door that had not a beard, till her return. Soon after, a Wolf, that was hard bred when the charge was given, approached the door, and demanded admittance, using a counterfeit voice for that purpose. The Kid apprehensive of the danger that was ready to overtake her, bid the Wolf shew his beard and his request should be granted.

The M O R A L.

Hypocrisy, as cunning and deceiving as it is, cannot conceal all ways of discovering it. A little attention and trial will discover the cheat, and remove the disguise.

The R E M A R K.

The advantages of time and place are powerful enough to turn a coward into a Hector. A cock upon his own dunghill will venture to crow, because there he knows danger cannot come at him. This way of abusing people

people is unmannerly every way, and he that uses it proclaims himself a pitiful dastardly wretch and coward.

FABLE X.

A SPIDER AND SWALLOW.



A Spider seeing a Swallow catch Flies, a foolish fancy or whimsy set her to work how to contrive a net that would catch Swallows, as intruders upon her right, and mere trespassers. But the net proved too weak to hold the prey: and so the bird flew away with it, by which the Spider was undeceived, and fell to her old trade again.

The M O R A L.

He that follows a calling he has no genius or fitness for, will soon grow weary of it, and lay it down.

The R E M A R K.

It is both safe and prudent for every one to make trial of his ability, and the force of the adversary he is to contend with before he enters the list with him; if the enemy be stronger, the other will certainly lose the day and his reputation at once. The Spider's attempt was very foolish, and the wrong she conceived to be done her,

ill-grounded. The aim and drift of the fable, is to ha-
 us to understand and explain injuries aright. It is hu-
 ful and pernicious to look upon a thing as an inju-
 which is nothing so. It was a ridiculous project to thi-
 of catching a Swallow in a cobweb; and as much w-
 the Spider mistaken, in vainly imagining to engross t-
 air to his own use. Those men, in short, deserve to
 accounted great fools that are fretful and angry, f-
 for nothing, secondly to no manner of purpose. He
 many are more foolish than this Spider, who seeing
 fruitless endeavours and attempts, returned to his o-
 trade again? Whereas many men are so obstinate, th-
 they will never own they have committed any mistake
 or been guilty of any errors; and so, like Pharaoh
 harden their own hearts, and use violence to their o-
 consciences, rather than it should be said, that they we-
 guilty of the least mistake; and so run on, till, at last, th-
 are drowned in the sea of obstinacy and stubbornness.

F A B L E XI.

A FOX and a COCK.



A Fox spied a Cock at roost with his Hen
 the unusual sight whereof made him ask
 the Cock, why he chose a tree for his roost
 being

ing no fit place for that purpose. But, continues Reynard, You have not heard the news, perhaps, which is certainly true: there is a general peace and concord agreed on between all living creatures, so that henceforward not one will dare to annoy, much less prey upon his fellow-creatures. This is good news indeed, says the cock; at the same time stretching out his neck, as if he had a mind to see something far off. At which the Fox asked the Cock what he gazed at? Nothing, says the other, but a couple of great Dogs yonder, that are coming this way open-mouthed, as fast as they can run. If it be so, says the Fox, it is time for me to depart. No, no, replied the Cock, the general peace will secure you. Ah, says the Fox, it will: but if the sound of the proclamation is not yet reached their ears, they may sacrifice me to their hunger, and the hatred they bear me: and so betook himself to his heels.

The M O R A L.

Amongst the over-reaching, and such as trick others out of their right, due respect ought to be had to honour and justice.

The R E M A R K.

This is to tell us, that in some cases, one nail must be driven out by another, and the deceiving of the deceiver enables the pleasure. 'Tis a hard matter to make an agreement between a forger and his forgery; they are in manner irreconcilable; so that it requires great care and skill in a shammer, to see that he contradict not him-

Wherefore flatterers and liars had need of good memories. A general truce would have put the Fox out of danger as well as the Cock; but if the Fox would withstand the Dogs, the Cock had no reason to trust the Fox. All people that are treacherous in their kind, are

narrowly to be suspected when things are told that concern their own interest; and when they can make nothing else out, they chuse to put it off with a jest.

F A B L E XII.

JUPITER and the BEE.



A Bee presented Jupiter with a pot of honey, which was so acceptable to him that he bade her ask what she would from him, and she should have her will. The Bee replied, That the wound made by her sting whenever it happened, might prove mortal. Jupiter bade her be content without her wish and be rather inclined to save life than to destroy it, telling her farther, That if she stung any, and left her sting behind her, it would become fatal to her.

The M O R A L.

He that longs to see mischief fall on another, and pray to the Almighty it may so happen, often hastens his own ruin and overthrow.

The R E M A R K.

Mercilessness and revenge are quite contrary to God's gentleness and forbearance, and the contriver of mischief

commonly feels it first himself. He that lays a trap for another, generally entangles himself in his own gin. Many in the world, how mischievous would they be, had they power equal to their ill nature, which so much abounds in this land! so it fared with the Bee here; she had mischief in her heart already, and wanted only some mischievous power answerable to her malicious wish.

F A B L E XIII.

Of the MAN and the SERPENT.



A Serpent haunted a country cottage, and bit a child that struck it, which soon afterwards occasioned his death; the child's parent being much grieved at it, with a bill he had in his hand, deprived the snake of his tail; this done, though the utmost he intended was not done, to contravert what he purposed to do farther, which was to retaliate and pay him in his own coin, he resolved to endeavour to be friends with him. But the snake refused it, telling him it was morally impossible a firm and safe league could be made betwixt them, till he had forgot the untimely death of his child, and the other the loss of his tail.

The M O R A L.

Persons that have injured each other, cannot presently forget hostilities and outrages done to one another, and forgive them: injuries usually leaving a smart behind them, that continues long after.

The R E M A R K.

Friendship is of that nature, that if not entire and complete, is dangerous, and proves rather a snare than a safe-guard. 'Tis rarely seen that two, who were once enemies, ever after return to a perfect amity and concord. And it is no wonder that it so falls out, real friendship being in all ages so rare and uncommon.

F A B L E XIV.

A F O X and H E D G E - H O G.



A Fox meeting a Porcupine or Hedge-Hog, wondered to see him so armed cap-a-pee every part having on its armour of defence: afterwards he fell into talk with him, and among other things persuaded him to lay aside that hostile garb, as not being apprehensive of any danger that threatened it. After the Porcupine had listened a while to his deceitful arguments, he made this reply to the ensnaring beguile

beguiler, Methinks I smell a Fox, keep at a distance; your eloquent flourishes have made no impression upon me; be packing therefore, lest you feel the keenness of my anger, and the smart of my prickles.

The M O R A L.

He that strips himself of the fence that nature has bestowed upon him for his safeguard, is miserably foolish, and if he smarts for it, deserves no compassion.

The R E M A R K.

Every thing that has not a mind to perish, is provided with means to avoid it. Hares are stored with ways to escape the dogs that pursue them. Partridges know how to save themselves from the claws of their merciless enemies the Hawks. The smaller fry have their several tricks and devices to keep out of harm's way; self-preservation being implanted in every thing that has a being.

F A B L E X V.

The Ox and Dog in the Manger.



A Churlish Cur got into a Manger, and there snarl'd to keep the Oxen from their provender, and food brought thither for them

them by their careful owner; the meat fitted not the Dog, who to starve others, cared not what became of himself.

The M O R A L.

Other people's misery is the proper food of envy and ill-nature, which had rather want itself, than see others enjoy what is convenient and necessary for them.

The R E M A R K.

There are but too many in the world of this Dog's temper, that will rather punish themselves than not be troublesome and vexatious to others. If some men might have their wish, the very sun in the firmament should withdraw his light, and they would submit to live in perpetual darkness themselves, upon condition that the rest of the world might do so too for company. Whatsoever their neighbour gets, they lose: and the very bread the one eats, makes the other mean and meagre: which is the natural meaning and intent of the tale.

F A B L E XVI.

WOLF and CARVED HEAD.



A Wolf entering a carver's shop, found a Man's Head; after a little gazing, and thinking thereon, imagined it had no sense, and then said, O pretty Head! finely wrought, but void utterly of brains. The

The M O R A L.

Outward comeliness is so much the more graceful, if the inward be answerable and agreeable to it; and a handsome outward shape is so far from decking a fool, that it renders him the more hateful and contemptible.

The R E M A R K.

Outward beauty no doubt very much sets off and graces a person; but the mind is all in all, that vastly exceeds every thing else he possesses and enjoys: all besides this is of no esteem; and without it he is very much beneath a brute, who, when he dies, leaves nothing behind him to preserve and perpetuate his memory. What a happy world should we live in, if mankind would but bestow the half, nay, the twentieth part of their precious time to adorn and trim their insides (which is the great thing necessary) which they lavishly waste in painting and setting off the outside? Let them remember the woes pronounced by our Saviour against those that cleansed the outside of the cup and platter, but neglected the inside; and then no doubt they won't take so much pains on their mortal bodies, which are often like the painted sepulchres.

F A B L E XVII.

VIPER AND FILE.



A Viper meeting with a File, fell to gnawing it. What ails thee, fool? says the File

File: Dost thou go about to fret me, who am wont to gnaw the hardest of metals?

The M O R A L.

Splenetic fools, neither regard their own interest, nor that of any body else; fall about it they will, whatever betide them, whatsoever mischief or calamity they thereby run into.

The R E M A R K.

Unadvised rashness hurries men unawares into manifold mischiefs. The attempt here of the Viper was exceeding foolish, and no less ridiculous; for the softer and weaker gnawer, to bite and gnaw the harder and stronger, looks odd and very wild.

F A B L E XVIII.

A Dog and SHADOW.



A Dog crossing a river with a morsel of meat in his mouth, saw, as he thought, another Dog under the water with such a piece of meat in his mouth as he had in his. He never considered that what he saw was reflection only, and that the water did the office of a looking-glass; wherefore, greedily chopping at it, he lost both substance and shadow; to his great regret and disappointment.

The

The M O R A L.

Excessive greediness mostly in the end misses what it aims at; disorderly appetites seldom obtain what they would have; passions mislead men, and often bring them into great straits and inconveniences, through heedlessness and negligence.

The R E M A R K.

This fable shews people the great danger and mischief they may fall into by suffering themselves to be directed by conceit only, and fancy that is its own guide. How wretched is the man that does not know when he is well, but passes away the peace and enjoyment of his life for the humouring of a whimsical appetite? He is never well till he is at the top, and when he can go no higher, he must either hang in the air or fall. What can be vainer now, than to lavish out our lives and fortunes in the search and purchase of trifles! and at the same time to lie carking for the needless goods of this world! and in a restless disquiet of thought for what is to come! which at the same time is as uncertain as uncertainty itself!

F A B L E XIX.

A WOLF and LAMB.



A Wolf quenching his thirst at a fountain-head, perceived at a good distance below

low him, a Lamb standing at the brink of the said rivulet; upon which the Wolf hastens to her. Wretch, as thou art, says he, how didst thou dare to mud the stream? To which the Lamb replied, That she thought her drinking at such a distance below him could not have given him any disturbance. Nay, says the other, you well remember what your mother's faulness cost her a while ago; if you have not a care you'll fare as she did: if you'll believe me, says the Lamb, in a trembling posture, I was not then in being. Well, well, impudence, says the Wolf, you talk at this rate out of hatred to our kind and family; but now I have you in a convenient place, I will be even with you, and so immediately sacrificed her to his hunger and revenge.

The M O R A L.

'Tis an easy matter to find an occasion to misuse one that is below us. Innocence is no armour against tyrannical power; no pleas avail against a power and a desire of injuring, if they meet together.

The R E M A R K.

Pride and cruelty never want a pretence to do mischief; the plea of not guilty, signifies nothing where arbitrary power is. When innocence is to be borne down by might, arguments are foolish things; nay the very merit, virtues and good offices of the person accused, are improved to his condemnation; nay, such is the boldness of spiteful cruelty, that people shall be charged with things utterly impossible, and wholly foreign to the matter in question; the Lamb itself shall be made malicious. Thus the Jews treated the LAMB of God, and such treatment must all men expect, who endeavour to follow the LAMB; for so great is the corruption of men, that interest and self-love are foisted

and pass at present for true religion and piety; and under this false mask of godliness, persecution is christened with zeal, and fury, for religion and Christianity.

FABLE XX.

AN EAGLE and TORTOISE.



A Tortoise, being weary of living in a hole and carrying his house about, made a request to the Eagle to learn him to fly. The Eagle seemed unwilling to grant it, telling him, It was against nature's course and appointment, and common sense too. But such was the freakishness of the Tortoise, that the more one was against it, the more the other was for it. The Eagle perceiving the tiresome importunity of the Tortoise, heaved him up in the air, steeple high, and then let him fall; the first thing that he met with at his return, was rock, which dashed him to pieces.

The M O R A L.

Whatever is unnatural, and goes arsy-versy, cannot be dangerous, and of ill consequence.

The R E M A R K.

This hints to us, how unsafe a vanity it is for a creature that was destined for one condition of life, to affect another no way agreeable to it. The Tortoise place was upon the sands, not among the stars, and if he had kept his wonted habitation, he would then have been out of danger of a fall, for then he could never have catched one. Many a fool is well advised, that he neither the grace, nor the wit to follow and profit by, and thus his stubborn wilfulness often proves his ruin.

F A B L E XXII.

The WIDOW and her HEN.



A Certain Widow had a Hen that every day laid one egg. Upon this she vainly thought within herself, that if she gave her hen more meat she would lay two eggs a-day. She tried the experiment upon it, till the Hen waxed fat, and by that means gave over laying.

The M O R A L.

This fable is a-kin to that of the Dog and Shadow forgoing. Striving after a great deal, which is both unlike and uncertain, we worst ourselves, not at all mending our condition.

The R E M A R K.

To be discontented with present comforts and enjoyments, is no hopeful way of attaining either more or greater. What a happiness would it be to mankind, did they but know when they were well? Nature has bestowed on every one his share, were a discreet use made of her bounty. But now a-days many people seek out ways and means to disquiet themselves, and what they will be, they will be, whatsoever hinders them, or stands in their way: hence no wonder if disappointment attend them and disquiet their hopes, thus deceived and brought to nought. If mortals would endeavour to act and move every one in his own sphere, we could not see so many sad and fatal examples as we often do, of the ruin and overthrow of many, whose ambitious designs lifted them up, and made them soar for a while, as it were with the wings of the Eagle, only that their fall might be the greater.

F A B L E XXII.

A SPIDER and the GOUT.



A Spider walking abroad to recreate himself, lighted upon the Gout, and walked with him till even-tide, and afterward took

up his lodgings in a fine palace, and fell to spinning cob-webs, which were as fast swept away; but the Gout had his quarters in a very nasty place, having nothing fit to entertain him. Meeting again the next morning, each gave his fellow an account how it fared with him the night past. The Spider began his relation first, which was a complaint of the niceness of his landlord; afterward the Gout requited him with such another story of ill usage; whereupon the next night they took the quite contrary course. The Spider got into a hovel, and the Gout into a hall, where the Lord of the Manor had his abode. The Gout met with every thing as he desired, and the Spider was as well pleased on the other hand. Upon this the Gout resolved henceforward to get into some rich man's house, and the Spider into a needy person's.

The M O R A L.

An industrious poverty in a cell, with quiet thoughts and sound sleep, is infinitely to be preferred before a lazy life of pomp and pleasure.

The R E M A R K.

One may be very uneasy with a plentiful fortune, as well as happy in a mean condition; for it is the mind that makes us either one or the other; a plain, honest, and temperate condition contents itself with a little. Where gluttony and idleness rule and bear sway, something is still wanting. How many foolish longings and wild desires possess and unquiet the fancy in such a state! We see a sailor sleep quietly in a hammock, without any care in his head, or indignation in his stomach; when persons of quality lie lurking upon a bed of state, with the qualms and twinges that accompany riot and excess.

FABLE XXIII.

OLD MAN and DEATH.



AN old Man carrying a burden of wood from the place where it grew, to his dwelling; by that time he had carried it half way, grew tired with it, and so laid it down, wishing death would approach and convey him from this life to a better. Death was presently at his elbow, and demanded why he implored his help? The old Man's reply was, He had at present no other need of him, than to lade him a-fresh, by helping him up with his burden.

The M O R A L.

Life, be it as miserable and wretched as it will be, is still preferable to death, though it have none of its frightful companions about it.

The R E M A R K.

One of the chief lessons christianity teaches its professors, is cheerfully and courageously to bear and undergo all the crosses and temptations they may meet with, during their pilgrimage in this lower and doleful world.

Death is always the conclusion and period of life: but we must not call and hasten it as oft as we please; he that gave us our being, has ordered us to preserve and keep it, till he think death better for us, than our longer abode here; to whose blessed will, as in all things else, so in this great point, we must submit and readily obey.

F A B L E XXIV.

The WEASEL and FILE.



A Weasel running into a brasier's shop, got to licking a File that lay there; so that a great deal of blood ran down his tongue as he licked. But the heedless Weasel thought his b'ood to be the Brasier's filings only, until he had quite filed away his tongue, and then he found his mistake.

The M O R A L

Is levelled at those, who, in quarrels and brawls, get harm and mischief before they are aware.

The R E M A R K

Shews, that though nature has endued every creature with a principle of self-preservation, yet their unruly appetites hurry them blindly on to their own destruction.

F A B L E

FABLE XXV.

The OLD WOMAN and PHYSICIAN.



AN Old Widow having a distemper fallen into her eyes, sent for a Physician, telling him, if he would cure her, he should receive a reward from her, otherwise nothing: the Physician upon the forecited condition, undertook the cure. He visited his patient every day, anointing her eyes with an ointment he had prepared for the purpose: after the anointing was over, away went the Physician, carrying something with him that belonged to his patient, being tempted thereunto, because just at the anointing she was wholly bereft of sight by its means. The woman perceiving her substance by this means to decrease daily, and that if her sight was restored, she might have nothing to look upon: The Physician demanding the agreed on reward: Nay, rather, replied the Old Woman, I see nothing at this time. When I first fell amiss, I could see goods of my

OWN

own, but now, at this time, thou seest I can see, they are got out of my sight.

The M O R A L

Intimates to us, that it often falls out, that wicked and unconscionable men fall under the rebukes of their own misdoings and vile practices, unwarily and unwillingly.

The R E M A R K.

The deeds of unrighteous men at last find them out, and betray them to shame and misery. Whilst the Physician was busy to bring his patient to her sight again, he was no less active in bringing his own thievery to light; for which he rather deserved a gibbet, than a reward from his pillaged patient. This is nothing else but for a man to cut his shins with his own hatchet, and to hale down mischief upon his own empty and senseless noddle.

F A B L E XXVI.

W O M A N a n d D R U N K E N H U S B A N D.



TWAS a Woman's misfortune to be joined in matrimony to a Drunken Husband; being desirous to free him from that abominable vice, she took this course to effect it; seeing him once very drowsy, by reason of the

the fit of drunkenness he was then in; she took him up upon her back, and carried him into a vault in the church-yard, where she left him, and went her way. When she thought he was come to himself, she returned thither, and he asked who it was that knocked? His wife made answer, it is I, who have brought a meal for a dead person. To which the drunkard replied, Gentle Sir, a bottle or two of strong liquor would have been more acceptable than any kick-shaw of any kind whatsoever; I am sad at hearing I must make a meal without liquor. But she, striking her breast, said, Miserable woman that I am! this device avails me nothing; for thou, husband, art not amended by it; rather thou art worse than before; the disposition, I fear, being also grown a habit.

The M O R A L.

This tale gives us warning of the danger which the continuance in a wicked course of life may bring us into; for oftentimes, when he that is in it would give over, and forsake it, he cannot.

The R E M A R K.

'Tis too well known, custom is a second nature. A naughty habit steals upon us unawares, before we perceive it; and once got, is not easily shaken off and parted with. Nothing can prevail with us to divorce ourselves from a beloved lust we have for some time been wedded to: so strong and powerful are its charms, that death itself, as terrible as it is, cannot fright us from hugging and caressing it. This poisonous viper we will cherish in our bosom, though we are sure that ere long his poison will give us a mortal wound, and punish us as we deserve. An old stubborn rooted habit, what a difficult task, good God! what a toil it is wholly to vanquish, and get an entire victory over it: The cutting off
 a Hy-

a Hydra's head asks the utmost strength and efforts of Hercules, but to tame an inordinate desire that has for some time ruled us, is past the power of most mortals.

F A B L E XXVII.

HUSBANDMAN and his SONS.



A Husbandman knowing he had not long to live, called his sons together, and earnestly exhorted them to follow his calling, commending a husbandman's life to them: further telling them, that if they diligently and painfully cultivated his vineyard, they should find a treasure of very great value he had in it. This welcome news cheered their hearts, and filled them with extraordinary hopes of finding a great deal of treasure; they, without more ado, fell to digging the vineyard, not leaving a foot of it unturned: However, after all the hoped for treasure, they met not with any: but nevertheless, the vineyard being thus bravely dressed and ordered, made them an ample satisfaction for the pains and labour they had bestowed on it.

The M O R A L.

This tale sets before us, that by industry men thrive and grow rich.

The

The R E M A R K.

Honest labour never fails: never misses its due reward and recompence. What else is virtue itself, the fairest and noblest ornament of mankind, but pains married to ingenuity, and happy, thrice happy is he in whom they meet and are joined; how sweetly does his time pass away! whatever befalls him, this quiets his mind, and thereby he enjoys a complete rest, and is out of the reach of all care and trouble. This world, that to most is a sort of hell, proves to him, by means of it, a real and sensible paradise. This remark sets before you, and brings to your view, a true virtuoso, the men of men, and what not.

F A B L E XXVIII.

The FLIES in the HONEY-POTS.



THE Flies, having got into a buttery where Honey-pots stood, fell a eating of the Honey; when they had got a good belly-full, they were going off, but found their feet fast; struggling to get loose, they so entangled themselves, that, being almost stifled, they cried out, What wretches are we to pay so dear for such a short banquet.

The MORAL.

The fable shews that gluttony has destroyed many.

The REMARK.

Intemperance has always proved fatal and destructive. Daily experience confirms the truth. A glutton seldom lives out half his days; therefore fly from this vice as from the most poisonous serpent. How many have been destroyed by a debauch! It is but just that they who trample upon the laws of nature, and make themselves worse than the brute beasts, should come to an untimely end. How many instances does history give us, of such as have begun fairly, but were at last miserably destroyed by this vice! A famous example we have in the person of Alexander the Great, who soon subdued nations, while he continued moderate and sober, till at last this great conqueror was himself conquered by drunkenness, and so put an end at once both to his life and conquests. What a dismal spectacle is a drunkard, or glutton cast upon his sick-bed, under the heavy load of loathsome distempers. And how wisely does the wisest of men observe, "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath redness of eyes? but he that carries at the wine."

FABLE XXIX.

SON and MOTHER.



A Boy stealing a book at school, brought home to his mother, she countenancing
 he

er child in that naughty course, encouraged him, in process of time, to steal things of greater value; at last, being caught in the fact, he was found guilty, and condemned. As he was going to the place of execution, his Mother followed him sadly bewailing his case. Upon which the Malefactor desired, that his Mother might speak to him. She came according to his request: and whilst she listened to hear what he would say, he bit off one of her ears. And, being chid by the company for what he did, he excused himself, by telling them, That his Mother, and nobody else, was the cause of his destruction: for, had she chastised me, (said he) for any foul offence, I had no longer followed the trade of stealing, but might have lived honestly, and by that means escaped this shameful death.

The M O R A L

Plainly declares to us, that wickedness, of what kind ever, if not speedily curbed, will quickly bring people an untimely end.

The R E M A R K.

That parent who has perused Solomon's admirable proverbs, will there perceive, how much wicked children stand in need of correction: which must be applied as soon as it is needful. No distemper of body or mind can effectually be removed, without a proper and suitable remedy. A vice let alone becomes stronger, and takes daily a deeper root, until at length, it turns natural, and becomes remediless. What a remarkable example doth the Scripture give of this in Eli and his sons! How fatal was his fondness, and too good humour, not only to his children, but to all Israel? So that parents ought to consider, that, in the bad education they give their children, they not only do them, but their country harm.

FABLE XXX.

The MISTRESS and her MAID.



A Mistress taking a liking to a girl, was resolved to hire her, with whom the Maid agreed, and so became the servant: the Mistress did her part, being rather too kind. The Maid after a while grew weary of her service, and by that means, the Mistress was no less tired with her: after several sharp rebukes, she resolved to be even with her Mistress, and used this device; she strewed the stairs with pease thinking thereby to give her Mistress a fall; but forgetting what she had done, next morning caught a shrew's fall herself.

The M O R A L.

Harm watch, harm catch; knaves and villains oft contrive their own ruin.

The R E M A R K.

Ingratitude seldom goes unpunished; too much gentleness is oftentimes more hurtful and fatal than too much severity. Ease and plenty make servants often negligent.

of their duty. If they are reproved by master or mistress they maliciously study their ruin. Wicked contrivances often fall heavy on the contrivers, and men are usually caught in those snares they have laid for others.

F A B L E XXXI.

The GRASSHOPPER and PISMIREs.



IN the winter season, the Pismires grew cold by reason of the moistness of their food: however a hungry Grasshopper asked an alms of them; they answered, Why do you not in summer lay up for the winter: the Grasshopper replied. I am not at leisure for singing to the country swains all the season. Nay, then, said the frowning Ants, since in summer thou pipest, thou must dance in winter.

The M O R A L

Teaches us to be careful and diligent in all our affairs on all occasions, lest reproach, Grief, and shame overtake us.

The R E M A R K.

We were sent into the world to toil, and thereby to earn our daily bread. It is no wonder to see him fall

into danger who will not foresee it, and feel misery who will not prevent it. To provide against a wet day is both commendable and necessary. Who can tell what may happen? What we little think of may befall us. We cannot sufficiently fence against the calamities which abound every where in this world. The more careful we are to prevent tribulation, the less grievous and irksome will it prove. Solomon sends the sluggard to the ant to learn industry; and it is a shame to find men endued with reasonable souls come so far short of beasts: for, certainly if men were in many things as provident as brute beasts, we should see fewer go to the gallows.

F A B L E XXXII.

The LYING MOLE.



MOST people think a Mole is blind: He one time, said to his dam, I see a sycamore tree. He said to her a second time, There must be some frankincense hereabouts, for I smell it. He said to her a third time, I hear the noise of a brazen bell. His mother taking him up, answered thus; Son, I now plainly perceive, thou art as void of hearing and smelling as of sight.

The

The M O R A L.

Plainly shews, that many boasters promise great and wonderful things, who, when put to the trial, can hardly perform small ones.

The R E M A R K.

Great boast and little boast, as it is with dogs, so is with crackers, and vain braggers. The loudest boasters are most in the end the least performers: Saying and doing are different things; talking is not performing. If words alone could do, a ladder had been found out before this time, which would have reached the moon; so that from thence, a nearer prospect had been taken of the stars. Noise can only affect the ears; brattle will never butter parsnips.

F A B L E XXIII.

The MISTRESS and her MAIDENS.



A Laborious and thrifty Widow usually called up her Maidens to their work at cock-crowing; the toil at last growing irksome and grievous to them, made them think of this device, for their ease: they imputed their early rising every morning to the noise the cock made; and therefore to make sure work, at once put

an end to his noise and his life; but the remedy proved worse than the disease; for the old widow, deprived of her watchman, called them up for the most part, sooner than before.

The M O R A L

Tells us, in very plain terms, that many, and too many, devise and contrive their own harm and mischief.

The R E M A R K.

Many know not when they are well, and are therefore often altering their condition and way of living. They soon turn weary of what is present, and always restless; such are their own disturbers, who often seek their ease and quiet by such indirect practices, that they often have cause to repent of them. Men should think before they change, lest they change for the worse. The foolish wenches in the fable must kill the cock for waking them too soon, and so by thinking they should have much more sleep, it happened they had almost no sleep at all.

F A B L E XXXIV.

The WITCH.



A Witch professing great skill in pacifying the angry gods, when provoked against a wicked people, grew so successful, that she became a great gainer thereby; but, being in
dicted

icted for witchcraft, was found guilty, condemned, and afterwards carried to the place of execution. Whereupon one seeing her pass by, gave her this sharp taunt, Couldit thou shew others the way to appease God's wrath, and get now help and relieve thyself, when under the same dreadful judgment and calamity?

The M O R A L.

Sets before us, the jolly and madness of too many, who after great promises and brags, can really perform nothing.

The R E M A R K.

To teach others to get out of the briers, whilst we are ourselves so far entangled, that we cannot get out, is both bad and ridiculous. Hence we may learn and remember this useful lesson, viz. How unsafe and dangerous it is to believe, and much more to rely upon the vain promises and the vapours of mere pretenders, and bare faced-cheats.

F A B L E XXXV.

A hunted BEAVER.



THE Beaver (as people say) can stay longer in the water than any four-footed beast. His stones are reckoned to be good in physic: when he finds himself pursued by the hunter, he

he bites them off, and leaves them, and by this means saves his life.

The M O R A L.

This fable shows, that all men ought to part with their most valuable things, to save their lives when in danger.

The R E M A R K.

Nature hath endued all creatures with self-preservation. Nor should men take care of themselves only, but also of their country; for when a government is in danger every good subject, without grudging and murmuring ought to part with goods and estate, to prevent its ruin.

F A B L E X A X V I.

MERCURY and the CARVER.



Mercury, desirous to know what repute he had in the world, went into a Carver's shop in the shape of a man: looking about him, he espied Jupiter's image, and cheapened it. The carver asked a groat. Afterward he cheapened Juno's, for which he asked more. At last, seeing his own image, not doubting but the Carver would value it at a great rate, as being messenger to the gods, and patron of tradesmen

en, asked the price of it? Why truly, says the Carver, give me but my price for the other two, and you shall have that into the bargain.

The M O R A L.

This fable reproves those who, setting too high a value upon themselves, appear by so much the more despicable to others.

The R E M A R K.

A fond conceit, where it prevails, is of bad consequence, and commonly meets with contempt and scorn. A country girl dressed up for a fair, or a wedding, fancies herself presently to be some Duchess. What a fair creature does a peacock think himself, while he gazes at his fine painted tail, not considering his ugly paw, and frightful cry! There are severals who think themselves no fools, are apt to fancy that others have the same opinion of them that they have of themselves.

F A B L E XXXVII.

The CROW and PIGEON.



A Pigeon, that was brought up in a dove-house, meeting with a Crow, told him in vain and bragging way, how fruitful she was, and what a number of young ones she had. Never value yourself too much upon that (says the crow) for the more children the more sorrow.

The

The M O R A L.

Many children, when they prove good, are a great blessing; but, if bad, they are as great a curse.

The R E M A R K.

Parents are often puffed up, and too vain, if they have a number of children; but they are seldom taken up with the care of their education. Wherefore it continues to pass, that they often prove crosses rather than comforts. How many instances of this have we heard of of all ages, and see but too many in this we live in?

F A B L E XXXVIII.

The FOWLER and SNAKE.



A Fowler having provided twigs and birdlime, went on to try his art; and having espied a Thrush sitting on a high tree hard by, he presently made all things ready to catch her as his prey, but had the misfortune to tread upon a snake, sleeping at the root of a tree, which presently swelling with anger, bit him mortally. So the unhappy Fowler finished his life with this sad complaint: Poor wretch that I am! whilst I seek and thirst after another life, alas! I fall a prey to a poisonous viper.

The M O R A L.

This fable teaches us, that many, whilst they go about ensnare their neighbours, meet with the same fate from others who are no less busy to entrap them.

The R E M A R K.

Contrivers of mischief often meet with mischief. They who think to catch others are often prevented in their malicious designs, and lose their lives by accidents which they cannot foresee. Tho' daily experience shews this to be true; yet so great is the devil's power over wicked men, that they will still plot and seek the ruin even of the harmless and innocent. Would mankind but think seriously on the laws of nature, which teach us to do to others what we would have done to ourselves, we should not find so many instances of cruelty and malice among Christians, which even the very heathens are incapable of.

F A B L E XXXIX.

The M U L E.



A Mule over-fed, turned wanton and skittish, fell a kicking and braying; moreover bragged that his father was as swift as any Barbary courser, and that he was every way, and in all respects like him. Soon after, being obliged to go a little way, he grew weary, and remembered that an ass beгат him. The

The M O R A L.

This fable teaches this plain lesson, that tho' men may rise considerably in the world, however they should not forget what they are, and from whence they came; and seeing earthly things are uncertain, the higher they stand, the greater their fall may be.

The R E M A R K.

An ancient poet left behind him this wholesome advice. Avoid a high station: for he who stands there, should take heed that he fall not. What a world of examples of this kind are to be seen every day: no journals, or annals are without plenty of such dismal instances; to-day a prince, to-morrow a beggar, or much more miserable and wretched. St. Paul gives us a wholesome advice, "Let him that thinketh he stands, take heed lest he fall." How many think themselves secure in their riches, high posts, and acquired honours, but they should remember their day of adversity: for what Solomon says of all earthly enjoyments, is confirmed by daily experience, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

F A B L E XL.

The Fox and CRAB.



AN hungry Fox espied a Crab lying on the sand by the sea-side, ran, and snatched

up. The Crab finding he was to be eaten, said thus: No better could come of it, I had nothing to do here, for my business was at sea, not upon the land.

The M O R A L.

Nobody pities a man for any misfortune that befalls him, for meddling with things out of his way.

The R E M A R K.

Some men are so very curious in prying into the affairs and concerns of others, that they often get a great deal of ill will. Others there are who can never be at rest, but love to be shifting and changing, and, when well, cannot hold themselves well. A third sort there is, who by meddling with things above their reach, often bring themselves and friends to utter ruin, for which they may thank themselves. You shall hardly now a days, see a cobler or a tinker in an ale-house, but will be nibbling at state affairs.

F A B L E X L I.

The Dog and the Wolf.



A Dog and a Wolf met accidentally together upon the high-way; the Wolf told the Dog, he was glad to see him, and wanted to know how it came to pass, that he looked so

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fat and jolly: What? says the Dog, I keep my master's house from thieves, and I have very good meat, drink, and lodging for my pains: I wish, says the Wolf, I were as well provided for. Truly, says the Dog, if you'll go along with me, I'll speak to my master in your favour, and I doubt not but you'll fare as well if you'll be as good a servant as I am. The Wolf was very well pleased, promising fairly, and away they trot together, and were very pleasant company on the way. At length as they came nigh the house, the Wolf spied a bare place about the Dog's neck, where the hair was worn off: Brother, says he, how comes that? I pray thee? Oh! that's nothing, says the Dog, but the fretting of my collar a little. Nay, says the Wolf, if there be a collar in the case, I know better things than to sell my liberty for a crust.

The M O R A L.

This fable shews, how valuable a thing liberty is, and that all other things without it, can give no comfort.

The R E M A R K.

All creatures have a desire after liberty, which they will not exchange for any thing else. The Wolf (you see here in the fable) was well enough pleased with the good plight the Dog was in; he thought it a good thing to have meat, drink, and lodging at his command; he had no fancy at all for his collar: and truly, he that sells his freedom for the cramming of his guts, makes best but a bad bargain; for tho' such a one looketh well in the eyes of the silly and ignorant people, who have no further view than fine clothes, plenty of provision, and money; yet he will appear but mean and servile, such as consider him with a more discerning eye, as the Wolf did the Dog's neck.

FABLE XLII.

The BRAGGER.



A Great traveller returning home to his native country, bragged of sundry notable exploits which he had performed in foreign parts; particularly he told how he had jumped such a jump in the island of Rhodes, that none living could do the like; and that a great many of the Rhodians (if they were present) could bear witness that what he said was true. One of the standers-by answering, said, Sir, if what you say is true, there is no need of vouchers; only fancy this place is Rhodes, and let us see such a jump here.

The M O R A L.

This fable shews us, that if the proof of a thing be not ready, and at hand, whatever else can be produced in its behalf, is of no force, and altogether impertinent.

The R E M A R K.

Boasting is very seldom excuseable. Yet what aundance of foolish fops doth this age produce, who, for their boasting and bragging, teaze every company

they sit in. Wise men are for the most part, sparing of their own actions; for who dwells most on that subject are commonly looked on to be guilty of partiality and sometimes of untruth.

F A B L E XLIII.

The Dogs.



A Certain person kept two Dogs, the one for the house, the other for game. When the Game-Dog caught any thing, the House-Dog had a share, at which the Game-Dog grudged, and upbraiding the other, told him He lived by his labour, and was at no pains to get his own livelihood. The House-Dog, vexed with this sharp taunt, excused himself, saying, You should blame my master, not me whom he never taught to do any thing.

The M O R A L

Informs us, that such as understand little, are not much to be found fault with, as their parents, who take no care of their education.

The R E M A R K.

Better unborn than untaught. Good education is the most valuable thing a parent can bestow upon his child.

The great advantage that attends an early and good education, is what every one is so sensible of, that there is no need to speak any more about it. How many born of mean parents have raised themselves and friends, by their virtuous education, to great honour and much wealth! A little cost and charge this way has often made a vast return.

F A B L E XLIV.

The CAMEL.



AT the Camel's first appearance in the world, most creatures were afraid to come near him, by reason of his unnatural bulk, and odd shape. But in process of time, they perceiving his gentleness, ventured to come near him. Soon after, finding that he was a harmless creature, they bridled him, and caused the very children to lead him up and down, and made him their game.

The M O R A L.

Custom and use make things easy, which at first view appear hard, and that contemptible which at first was dreadful.

The R E M A R K.

Use and custom are (I may say) a second nature. They make things easy and delightful, which at first

view seemed strange, hard, and even frightful. Good nature is often abused: men, as well as children, are apt to make their game, not only of inferiors, but all of superiors. Good nature has made subjects turn too familiar even with their sovereigns.

F A B L E XLV.

The DAW hung by the FOOT.



A Country fellow caught a Daw, and tie a string to his leg, and so gave him to a child to play withal; but the Daw turned soon weary of his play-fellow, and gave him the slip as soon as he found his opportunity, and went off to the woods with the string, which shackled him, so that he starved: but, as he was dying, he sore repented his folly, in going back to starve in the woods, rather than to lead an easy life among men.

The M O R A L.

Men's humour and fancy are often the cause of the uneasiness; but where content is, there is happiness.

The R E M A R K.

How many are impatient, let their condition be ever so easy, and will still be chopping and changing, tho' common

commonly they change for the worse, as the Daw did here in the fable, who brought himself to a starving condition, seeking after liberty, whereas he might have lived easily and plentifully under a small confinement. How many are to be seen daily, who after a loose and idle life, which brings them to misery, and often to ruin and disgrace, see their folly when it is too late! Liberty, as is true, is a very desirable thing; but some people mistake it much, who suppose that they want liberty, if they are confined to an honest trade or employment, whereby they may do their duty in that state; whereas to be wholly given to a lazy and sluggish temper, which they falsely call liberty, is the worst of slaveries.

F A B L E XLVI.

A wicked Wretch undertakes to beguile Apollo



A Wicked Wretch went to Delphos, with a design to trick Apollo, thus: He held a live sparrow in his hand under his cloak, and approaching the altar, put this question to the god, O Apollo! may it please thee, tell me, whether this, which I hold in my hand, be living or dead? intending to shew the sparrow alive, if Apollo should say it was dead; or to squeeze

squeeze it to death in his hand under his cloak should Apollo say it was alive. But Apollo knowing the cunning of the man, answered, You need not ask my advice on that head; for it being in your power, you may shew it dead or alive, as you think fit.

The M O R A L.

This fable shews, that 'tis in vain for us to think that we can hide any thing from God, who sees and knows all things.

The R E M A R K.

Men always deceive themselves, when they think to deceive God. They must have very weak thoughts of God, who think to juggle with him as with their fellow-creatures, who are liable to ignorance and mistakes, and therefore can be easily imposed upon.

F A B L E XLVII.

The COCKLES roasted.



AS a country boy was roasting Cockles, he heard them hiss with the great heat of the fire. What silly wretches are ye, says he, thus to sing, while your house is burning about your ears.

The M O R A L.

This fable shews, that every thing done out of season, looks ridiculous.

The

The R E M A R K.

Many a good advice has been lost for not timing it right, and many have been thought tedious and impatient, who, had they taken a fit opportunity, would have been looked upon as wise and prudent counsellors, Solomon says very wisely, "That there is a time to laugh, and a time to mourn:" so that people should adapt their behaviour to the present occasion.

F A B L E XLVIII.

The REED and OLIVE.



There was a dispute between the Reed and the Olive, which was the lustiest, strongest and firmest. The Olive upbraided the Reed as frail, and yielding to every wind. The Reed was for some time without returning answer, but not long: for a violent wind arising, the Reed was shaken and tossed by its fury, which the Olive, endeavouring to resist, was broken.

The M O R A L.

This fable shows, that those who on occasion give way such as are stronger, obtain their ends sooner, than those who obstinately resist.

The REMARK.

It is folly, we commonly say, to strive against the tide. We often see the proud and lofty brought down and humbled; whereas, they that are mean and low in their own conceit, frequently come either to honour or renown, or at least they escape these checks and reproofs of adversity that the high and mighty ones are subject to. Thunder oftener breaks on high mountains than on low vallies: and tall oaks and cedars are split to pieces when the low shrubs go free. How often do we see those that use all arts and contrivances, to come to the highest of honours and preferments, (from whence, from a high tower, they look down with contempt and neglect on those they thought their inferiors) struck down on a sudden from the height of their grandeur and become as mean and contemptible in the sight of those they despised as the poorest country fellow, who content with his homely condition, never aims at any other advantage than to secure himself and family from poverty and hunger.

FABLE XLIX.

THIEVES breaking into a House.



AS a gang of Thieves were busy breaking into a house, a Mastiff, that lay within, fell a barking. One of the Thieves spoke to his fellow, saying, 'This dog is barking at us, but he is not barking at us for our sake, but for the sake of the money we are carrying off.'

r, and offered him a piece of bread to stop
 his mouth; to whom the Dog answered, I smell
 your wicked design. Do you take me to be such
 a fool as to be bribed, and betray my master?
 You offer me a piece of bread, but I scorn
 your offer; for should I take it, you would rife
 the house, and get off while I am eating.

The M O R A L.

*This fable shows, that neither fair promises, nor pre-
 ts, should tempt any one to betray his trust.*

The R E M A R K.

There are a great many servants not half so true to
 their master as this Dog was to his; for a loaf of bread
 is as great a temptation to him, as a bag of money to
 a man. Yet very few are proof against such an offer; so
 that this dog is a great reproach to all false trustees;
 the greater the trust is the greater the treachery.

F A B L E I.

The SHEPHERD and his FLOCK.



A Certain countryman was feeding his sheep
 in a fine day by the sea-side; and seeing
 the sea so calm and smooth, he thought to set

up

up for a merchant, and venture something. way he goes in all haste, sells some of his shee buys a bargain of figs, and to sea he goes. happened that there arose such a great tempe that the seamen were fain to cast their lo ing over-board, to save their own lives. So a new merchant came home very soon, and took himself to his old trade again. It happed, as he was feeding his sheep upon the fa coast, that there was such a fine day, and ea sea, as had tempted him before. Yes, says to the sea, you think to flatter me once mo but I am not such a fool to be so guiled out the rest of my sheep.

The M O R A L.

Experience teaches fools, as we say in the proverb, be wise; and if that do it not, nothing will.

The R E M A R K.

How happy may many persons be in all estates they can but suit their mind to their condition! a she herd may be as easy in a cottage, as a prince in a lace. But every man living has his weak side; and seldom see people so easy, but that they are discontented about something, and fancy they may be better another station, even after some trade or business t they don't perhaps understand; and so when they m with disappointments, it shews them how well t were at first, if they could have kept so. The rea of this restless temper is, because people do not le upon the station they are in, as that wherein God well pleased to place them: which makes them ha and greedily pursue after something else, without c sidering whether they can serve God in that conditi better, than in that state whereinto providence has b pleased to call them.

FABLE LI.

The Unskilful HARPER.



A Certain Harper playing, as he usually did, upon his harp in a large hall, which made a mighty sound and echo, fancied himself to be no mean artist. Puffed up with this vain conceit, he must needs be one of the music in the play-house, where, having appeared, he began to play; but so harsh and unpleasant was his music, that he was hissed out of the house.

The M O R A L.

This fable shews, that many, who think themselves to be no small persons, are, upon trial, found to be very weak and ignorant.

The R E M A R K.

The world abounds with more pretenders to learning, than truly learned. How many do we see daily, who, having for some time ranged about the streets with mountebank, and learned a little of his quacking, set up for able physicians, and give out (with a great stock of impudence) that they can cure all diseases, when they really know nothing of the matter: I have known a fellow, who, having served his apprenticeship to a Gypsy, immediately set up for a great fortune teller and

astrologer, when he knew no more of it than Serjeant Kite in the play. And so it is in all other sciences and trades. There can be no greater sign of folly than for any one to be wise in his own conceit, and they that are thus fond of their silly performances, seldom come better off than this unskilful Harper, who thought that he could as sufficiently please the learned by his music as he pleased himself.

F A B L E LII.

A MAN bit by a DOG.



ONE that was bitten by a Dog, was advised (as the best remedy in the world) to dip a piece of bread in the blood of the wound, and give the Dog to eat. Pray hold there, says the Man: I have no mind to draw all the Dogs in the town upon me, for that will certainly be the end of it, when they shall find themselves rewarded instead of punished.

The M O R A L.

Good nature is a great misfortune, when it is not managed with prudence.

The R E M A R K.

Wicked and ill-natur'd men can never be obliged
kin

kindnesses, which oftentimes makes them more insolent, and it is a great temptation to go on in their course, when they fare the better for evil doing. Christian charity, 'tis true, bids us return good for evil: but it does not oblige us to reward where we should punish. This way of proceeding is dangerous in public, as well as in private affairs; for bad men, when they find themselves treated with too much tenderness, are thereby encouraged to be worse and worse. Quarrellsome men, as well as quarrellsome curs, are worse for fair usage. We have many examples of this nature at home and abroad. How many kingdoms as well as private families, have not only been in great danger, but brought to utter ruin by bold insolent and designing villains, when their superiors were but too good natured, and thought to reclaim them by gentle and kindly means? which is the wrong way of managing such obdurate and perverse tempers.

F A B L E LIII.

A Sow and a Dog.



A Sow and a Dog fell a colong, and the Sow, in great wrath, swore by Venus, that she would tear him in pieces, if he did not hold his peace. Ah, says the Dog, you do well to swear by Venus, indeed, who cannot abide any creature about her that eats swine's flesh. You fool, says the Sow, do you not know this

is a great token of her love to me, not to endure any thing that hurts me? But, for Dog's flesh, it is good for nothing, either dead or alive

The M O R A L.

This fable shews us, how prudent it is, when a quarrel or dispute ariseth, to break it off with a jest.

The R E M A R K.

'Tis a common thing for men to boast and value themselves upon their interests and familiarity with great men, to whom, it may be they never spoke. Others upon slender acquaintance, intrude so much in the company of their betters, that they become both uneasy and impertinent. Even when they think themselves mighty favourites, cannot but expose them to the scorn of such as know how matters stand with them, as the Sow here in the fable appeals to Venus, as her patroness, before the Dog, when she might easily have foreseen, that the Dog could not miss of reproaching her as a liar. However, when people have overshot themselves, the best way is to turn off the scandal with a jest.

F A B L E L I V.

The PIGEON and WATER-POT.



A Pigeon that was extremely thirsty, found a pitcher with a little water in it, but

ay so low, that he could not come at it: he tried first to break the Pot, but it was too strong for him; he tried then to overturn it, but it was too heavy for him. At last he be- thought himself of a device that did his busi- nesses, which was this: he went and brought little pebbles, and dropt them in the water, and so raised it, till he had it within his reach.

The M O R A L.

What we cannot compass by force, we may by art and invention.

The R E M A R K.

Necessity is very oft the mother of invention; and we find, that some when they are put to their wit's end, have presently fallen upon a shift, which otherwise would never enter into their head. We commonly say, 'That wiles help weak folks;' as we see in this fable, that the Pigeon came nearer to his purpose, by his cunning device, than by his force and strength, which before he had spent in vain.

F A B L E LV.

The SHEPHERD and FOX.



AS a Shepherd was one day playing on his pipe, up comes the Fox, charmed with his music,

music, and told him what great desire he had to become one of his family, that he might have the pleasure always of hearing his sweet pipe. Verily, Friend Reynard, says the Shepherd, you shall be very welcome into my family, providing that you leave your teeth and nails behind you.

The M O R A L.

There is no trusting of fair words from a known and professed enemy, without the best security that can be had.

The R E M A R K.

One can never be too wary who to trust: it is the interest of all men to know well those whom they enter into friendship with; for there are some men, let them speak ever so fair, that are knaves at the bottom: and there are some sharpers in the world that men must stand upon their guard, for fear of being tricked.

F A B L E LVI.

A LION grown old.



A Lion, who, in his younger days, had got great many enemies by his fierceness and cruelty, came at last to be reduced, in his old age, to a great deal of misery and contempt; the

that most of the beasts, out of a revenge, came and fell upon him. Among the rest, the Ass comes and kicks him with her foot; then the Lion groaning, said, I am a miserable creature indeed! And, I confess, I deserve no kind usage from some to whom I have been no friend; but that others should serve me so, to whom I have been very kind, I think 'tis very hard; but there is nothing goes so near my heart, as to be kicked by the heel of an Ass.

The M O R A L.

No body ought to be haughty in their prosperity: for if fortune does but frown upon him, he soon becomes contemptible.

The R E M A R K.

It is the interest of all persons to secure for themselves something against the time of need. Our Saviour commends the conduct of the unjust steward, who made friends to himself, who should receive him into their houses as soon as he was turned off; and we are desired in the conclusion of that parable, "to make ourselves friends with the mammon of unrighteousness, that we may be received into everlasting habitations." How miserable is the condition of those, who, to gratify some base vice, such as pride, or malice, for the base lustre of money, lose soul, body, and reputation! Such leave this world unlamented, and unpitied; and enter on the next with a conscience stung with a guilty remembrance of their wickedness, and full of horror, at the prospect of divine vengeance. Solomon gives a fair warning to such in the book of Ecclesiastes, where he says, "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou, that for all these things, God will bring thee into judgment."

FABLE LVII.

THIEVES and a COCK.



A Band of Thieves broke into a house once, and found nothing to carry away but one poor Cock. The cock said as much for himself as a Cock could say; but he chiefly spoke of the services which he did, by calling people up to their work, when it was time to rise. Sirrah, says one of the Thieves, you had better spoken nothing of that; for your waking the family spoils all our trade, and your bawling, very oft makes us run the hazard of hanging.

The M O R A L.

This fable shews, that many a man, by his foolish talk, is the occasion of his own ruin.

The R E M A R K.

The government of the tongue is a notable thing; and it is a great sign of a prudent and sober man not to let any thing drop from his mouth, which may be made use of against himself; for it has often happened, that one foolish word has spoiled a good cause. Had the silly Cock been so wise as to keep his own counsel, the thieves perhaps, would hardly have thought it worth their
while

while to carry him off. Seldom comes any good of too much prating. 'Tho' good men are conscious to themselves, that they discharge their duty with honesty and are towards their neighbours; yet they ought well to know in what company they are, before they presume to let their virtues be known, because virtue is always despised by the wicked, and they that delight in darkness, and love not that their actions should come to light, hate those whose deeds are contrary to their own.

F A B L E LVIII.

A STAG and LION.



A Stag that was closely pursued by the huntsmen, fled for safety into a den where a Lion chanced to be, and before he was aware, the Lion immediately got hold of him; and as he was expiring under his paws, Miserable creature that I am, says he, endeavouring to escape the hands of men, I have unluckily run into the paws of the fiercest of beasts.

The M O R A L.

This fable shows, that many, while they think to get rid of small danger, run themselves headlong into greater mischief.

The R E M A R K.

Men in this world are threatened with dangers on all

all hands, some of which they cannot easily avoid. But when men are brought to this pass, that they know not to what hand to turn them, they should follow the advice of the proverb: 'Of two evils, the lesser is to be chosen.' How unaccountable is the conduct of some who, endeavouring to avoid pressing difficulties, fly for refuge to thieves and murderers, and so, by engaging in their wicked ways, bring themselves unto a shameful end. The proverb holds good here, viz. 'The men should always look before they leap;' for they that act without consideration, must needs repent them of their rash engagements, whereby they often ruin not only themselves, but also their whole family, as well in their estates as their reputation.

F A B L E LIX.

The SICK KITE.



WHEN the Kite lay sick, and like to die, he sends to his mother, and desires her to pray to the gods for his recovery. Alas, my child, says the mother, How can you expect, that they should send you any relief, seeing you have robbed their altars so often?

The M O R A L.

We ought to have a great reverence for God, and ever

*thing else that belongs to his worship, if we expect
at he should hear us when we call upon him.*

The R E M A R K.

This fable shews us, that nothing but a good and
uly Christian life can make death easy to us. Can we
pect that God should hear us on our death-bed, when
all our life we are at no pains to please him, or heark-
to his precepts? This shews us also the folly and
reat madness of such as trust to a death-bed repen-
nce. When they have lived a wicked life, and can
rve the devil no longer, can it be supposed, that such
short time will be enough for the great work of re-
nciling ourselves to God? The best way to secure
od's favour, in the time of adversity is to be mindful
f him in our prosperity. The Preacher's advice, who
esires us to 'remember our Creator in the days of our
youth,' is now of little weight with those that from
eir infancy think of nothing but roguery and rapine;
ho to satisfy their boundless lusts, spare nothing ei-
er sacred or profane. Little do such people think,
at they must one day answer for all the violences
at at present they glory in.

F A B L E LX.

The SPANIEL and Ass.



A Gentleman had got a pretty Spaniel that
was still leaping upon him, licking his
hands,

hands, cheeks, and face, and playing a thousand tricks wherewith the master was pleased. There was an Ass about the house, who seeing this, began to think of her own sad fortune, how she must trudge about with her burden and never be at rest, yet always beat, while this idle puppy was his master's favourite, fed with the best, and caressed by every body. The Ass, finding him so well treated, must needs go the same way to work, to curry favour with her master: so the first time she saw him, she ran towards him, and leaped upon him, and daubing him with her nasty hoofs, almost beat him down to the ground; whereupon he called to his servants, and so the poor Ass was soundly cudgelled for her fondness.

The M O R A L.

People in all stations ought to know their due distance because too much familiarity breeds contempt.

The R E M A R K.

Men ought to observe order and decency in all things for that may become one man which is no ways proper for another, and some, by their too much officiousness do themselves no kindness. They are looked upon as fondlings, who seek after something to themselves, and so by this means they lose both their credit and dignity. This fable also strikes at such as are discontented with the station wherewith God is pleased to place them; but look upon others with an envious eye, whom they suppose to be in better circumstances: so while they attempt to raise themselves by indirect means, they go out of that road which providence has allotted them, and it is no wonder if they meet with a scourge to humble them.

F A B L E LXI.

The WOLF and CRANE.



Here was a Wolf that had got a bone in his throat, and being like to be choaked he intreated all the beasts to help him; but, when none came to his assistance, he promised a considerable reward to the Crane, if she would put her long bill down his throat, and draw out the bone. He prevails with the Crane, and when she had done him that good office, he claimed his promise. Why now, impudence, says the Wolf, when you put your head in my mouth, and then brought it out again safe and sound, I think that's a reward enough: could not I bite off your head? So I think you owe me your life, and that's a very good recompence.

The M O R A L.

'Tis lost kindness that is done to an ungrateful person.

The R E M A R K.

Though it be commonly said, that one good turn requires another; yet 'tis different, when people have to do with men who are no better than beasts: they are no way grateful or thankful to their preservers. Nay,

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how

how many are worse than the Wolf, who had the Crane's head at his mercy, yet did not chop it off? which was a kindness so far, that he would not take away the life of that creature who preserved his own. But you have many instances of those who have been their ruin who raised them from the dunghill. Nay, too many do we see, who let their parents starve, who spent their substance to put them in a way of living. But be sure, vengeance will overtake such wretches, whose cruelty goes beyond that of the most cruel beasts.

F A B L E LXII.

The HUSBANDMAN and SERPENT.



A Countryman happened, in a hard winter, to espy under a hedge, a Serpent that was half frozen to death: the good-natured man took it up, and kept it in his bosom till warm; he brought it to life again, and so soon as it was in a condition to do any thing, it bit the very man that saved the life of it. Ah! thou ungrateful wretch, says he, can thy ill-nature be satisfied with nothing less than the ruin of thy preserver?

The M O R A L.

'Tis natural for some men, like the Serpent, to do more mischief, the more kindness one does them.

The R E M A R K.

'Tis an excellent saying of the prophet, "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and not be burnt;" So he that takes an ungrateful man into his bosom, must expect to be betrayed. But 'tis no new thing with good-natured men, to meet with ungrateful returns: therefore friendship and kindness ought to be well weighed and considered, before they are bestowed. For 'tis very true what the proverb says, 'Save a thief from the gallows, and he will cut your throat.' This fable also strikes at such as indulge their base vices: these are so many Snakes, who will certainly destroy both soul and body at last; if they keep in the service of sin, they will meet with no better reward, than the Country-man did from the Serpent.

F A B L E LXIII.

The FROGS desiring a KING.



WHEN the Frogs had grown wanton with too much liberty, they petitioned Jupiter for a King: Jupiter, who knew the vanity of their hearts, refused them: but they were so importunate, that at last he threw down a log for their King, which, at the first dash, made a mighty stir in the lake, and frightened

them so, that all skulked in the mud: this fear kept them in awe for some time, till one of the Frogs, bolder than the rest, put up his head and looked about him, to see how matter went with their new King; and, finding that he stirred not, he drew near by little and little, till at last he perceived what it was: upon this he calls his fellow-subjects, and discovers the whole matter to them, so that nothing would serve them, but they must ride a-top of him; inso-much, that the fear they were in before, is now turned into insolence and contempt. Jupiter is intreated a second time; for this King was too tame, and they desire one that had some courage: so Jupiter sent them a serpent which moving stoutly up and down the fen left them neither liberty nor property, but devoured all the frogs that came in his way: the frogs send once more to Jupiter, complaining of the King's cruelty, and desiring they may have another; but Jupiter answers them, That they who petition against a gracious King, must now endure one who had no mercy.

THE MORAL.

They that will not be contented when they are well must be patient when things are amiss with them.

THE REMARK.

It usually befalls the common people as it did the Frogs, who, if they have a king a little mild, they find fault with him that he is slothful and idle, and wish that they may once have a man of valour. On the contrary, if at any time they have a King that hath mettle in him, they condemn this King's cruelty, and commend the clemency of the former. 'Tis the temper of

great many to be weary of things present; and yet he oftner they change, and the farther they go, they are still the worse. Wisely doth Solomon enjoin us, to fear God, and honour the King, and not to meddle with such as are given to change.

F A B L E LXIV.

The LION and MOUSE.



A Lion that had been faint and weary travelling in a hot day, lay down under a shade and fell asleep, but was soon awaked by a parcel of mice, who ran over his back, one of which he caught. This poor prisoner pleads, that he was not worthy of his wrath: 'tis true, says the Lion, 'tis not worth my while to meddle with you, and so let him go: some time afterwards it happened, that this same Lion was caught in a net and fell a roaring; the Mouse presently knew the voice, ran out, and fell to work upon the couplings of the net, gnawed the thread to pieces, and, in gratitude, delivered her preserver.

The M O R A L.

There is no body so inconsiderable, but some time or other there may be occasion for him.

The R E M A R K.

In this fable we see the generosity of the Lion, and the gratitude of the Mouse; and notwithstanding the power and greatness of the one, who expected no return, (and who would have thought that the life of the Lion should lie at the mercy of the Mouse!) yet the meanness of the other did not hinder, but that he stood in great need of her assistance, which does teach us not to despise the meanest of creatures, because they may be of use to us; and so we ought never wilfully to disoblige any body; for if we did by others as we would have others do by us, this is the best way to do ourselves and others a kindness.

F A B L E L X V.

The KITE, HAWK, and PIGEONS.



THE Pigeons once made war with a Kite, and that they might be able to beat him, made choice of the Hawk for their King. But as soon as he got the government, he acted more like a tyrant than a King, making a greater havock among them than the Kite had done.

done. The Pigeons at last repented of their choice, saying, We had done better to have born with the Kite's severity, than thus to suffer the tyranny of the Hawk.

The M O R A L.

'Tis good to follow St. Paul's advice, who learns us in every condition therewith to be contented.

The R E M A R K.

'Tis seldom that people of a fickle temper escape inconveniences, which they are constantly exposed to by the designs of crafty and treacherous men, who under pretence of friendship, prove much more hurtful than an avowed enemy. David complains, how he that was a familiar friend had lifted up his heel against him, and this was a forer wound to him than if an enemy had done it; for, says he, I could have borne with it the better. The pleasures and vanities of this life are treacherous friends, who promise great things at a distance; and tho' they seem to be sweet in the mouth, yet they prove bitter in the belly.

F A B L E LXVI.

The Daw and borrowed FEATHERS.



A Daw that would fain appear finer than her companions, decked herself with Pea-

Peacock's feathers, and all the other gay feathers that she could find; so she would not stay any longer with birds of her kind, but must needs go among the Peacocks, and other fine birds: but as soon as they discovered the cheat, they fell a pulling of her: and when every bird had taken his own feathers away, the silly Daw was stript to the skin, and nothing left to cover her nakedness.

The M O R A L.

When pride and beggary meet, people are sure to be made ridiculous.

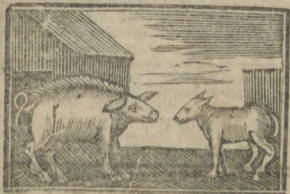
The R E M A R K.

Pride and ambition has been the ruin of many. Lucifer was turned out of heaven for his arrogance: and we have all the sad experience, how fatal this was to our first parents, who were not satisfied with the state wherein God had placed them, but they must attempt such things as were their ruin: and when their eyes were opened, and they found themselves as naked as the Daw stript of her feathers, then they came to understand and repent their folly. And how many of their posterity follow their example? They still believe Satan's amusements, until they are summoned by death. Then it is that their eyes are opened, and find that he that was a liar from the beginning, and will be so to the end, has cheated them.

This fable shews us, moreover, the great mistake of such as place their happiness upon any thing that may be taken away. What are all the riches and honours of this world but borrowed feathers? When death comes we must be stripped of them, and left naked, according to the saying of Job, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return." This fable strikes at such as make a mighty show, and have a gay outside at the expence of others, until people begin to discover how matters are with them, and every one takes away his own; and so they are left as naked as the Daw.

FABLE LXVII.

The WOLF and Sow.



A Wolf came to a Sow, just ready to lye down, and promised to take care of her litter: the Sow told him she did not want his help; and the greater distance he kept, he would oblige the more; for the Wolf's office, says she, consists not in being nigh, but in being far away.

The M O R A L.

Many offer their services, not out of love to the person they would seem to serve, but out of self-love.

The R E M A R K.

Many dangerous snares are laid for people under the name of kindness, and good offices: but ill men are not to be believed or trusted, for some enemies appear in the shape of friends: but men should stand upon their guard, as the Sow here did, who had more wit than to be enticed by the Wolf. Many love their neighbours; not for the love of God, but for the love of themselves; and this love lasts no longer than they can expect some benefit by them. There is nothing more hurtful to mankind than this poisonous principle of self-love; it destroys all government; for wile men do all for pri-

vate ends, what must become of the public? And it overturns all religion, which strictly enjoins, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do unto them, for this is the law and the prophets." So that nothing more effectually ruins men both in this life and that which is to come, than self-love, which at last proves rather to be self hatred. It is the spring of sin and wickedness, and we may very well apply unto it, what the Apostle says of the love of money, "That it is the root of all evil."

53 FABLE LXVIII.

The MOUNTAIN IN LABOUR.



There was once a report, that a Mountain was in Travail, all the people expected some dreadful monster to be brought forth, at last there comes only a Mouse; so that the people were like to die with laughing.

The M O R A L.

There's often much to go about nothing.

The R E M A R K.

This fable strikes at great braggers, who make a mighty noise and boasting about their performances; and yet when they are brought upon trial, behold they can do nothing at all; and it is no wonder if such vapouring

ouring fellows become the scoff and game of all that know them. And tho' they may sometimes impose upon the mob, yet they make themselves ridiculous to all men of sense. And yet how extravagant and vain are the attempts of some men? What castles do they build in the air? and what fine things do they promise to themselves, though all end like the fable, A mountain brings forth a Mouse? Such vain empty fellows may justly be compared to a cracker, which mounts into the air with a mighty noise and force, to the great wonder of the beholders, but of a sudden it bursts and vanishes into smoke, and turns the contempt of all present. 'Tis commonly observed, that such as are great braggers, are for the most part slow performers; and it is a great sign of folly and weakness, to keep people in expectation of great matters, when we are conscious to ourselves that we are no ways in a capacity to put them in practice.

F A B L E LXIX.

The HARES and FROGS.



THE Hares were strangely frightened at a whirlwind that had happened in a wood, which made a terrible noise among the trees: but after their fear was over, some of them began

gan to be mightily dissatisfied with their miserable condition. Why says one of them, here we live at the mercy of men, dogs, eagles, and I know not how many beasts, that prey upon us at pleasure, and are perpetually in danger, so that 'tis better to die once for all, than live at this rate in a continual fear, which is worse than death itself. All were well pleased with the fancy, and a resolution was taken one and all, to drown themselves; so away they went to the next lake. A great many Frogs, who were lying upon the banks, hearing the hurry of the Hares, leaped for fear into the lake: Nay then, my masters, says one of the Hares, pray let us have a little patience, our condition is not, I find, altogether so bad as we fancied: for there are those you see that are as much afraid of us as we are of others.

The M O R A L.

The intent of this fable is to shew, that if people did well consider their own case, there is not such cause of repining as they imagine.

The R E M A R K.

It is the unhappiness of the greatest part of mankind that they always look to persons above themselves which makes them so uneasy, while they see some others in a more flourishing condition than themselves whereas, did they but consider how it is with many of their neighbours, they would find it their duty to be thankful that it is no worse with them. I wish I had this, and I wish I had that, is the common saying of people; but did we compare ourselves with others, and see how many are in a miserable and wretched condition; some tormented with the most torturing pains and diseases, and others, blind and lame, starving for want of bread; we would be very thankful to God

or what they are, and what they have, seeing others
 envy their happiness as much as they do that of others.

FABLE LXX.

A FROG and an Ox.



A Huge Ox was grazing in a meadow, and a Frog seeing him, was desirous to match him in bulk, and so fell a stretching herself; she called out to her little ones to take notice whether she was not as big as the Ox. Why, mother, say they, you are nothing to the Ox. She then strained again, but it would not do: but she went still on and on, till at last she burst.

The M O R A L.

Pride and envy will at last bring a man to destruction.

The R E M A R K.

This fable is a severe lash upon those who fancy themselves to be greater than they really are, and so set up to live above what they can afford: they strive to imitate persons of the highest station and quality, who have twenty times their estates, till at last they bring themselves to poverty. What a great unhappiness is it to those, whose affections and thoughts run after nothing but high places? Into how many inconveni-

niencies do they bring themselves, till at last they burst. How contrary is the humour (which prevails too much in our days) to that poverty and humbleness of spirit which our Saviour lays down as the foundation of the Christian religion? For he begins the sermon on the Mount with these words; "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." And truly without such a disposition as this, there can be no real happiness; for, whatever condition the humble person is in, he is content, and prefers sobriety and retirement to the luxury of courts and palaces.

F A B L E LXXI.

The HUSBANDMAN and the WOOD.



A Country fellow who had got the iron work of an ax, went to the next forest to beg only so much wood as would make a handle to it. The matter seemed so small, that it was easily granted; but when the trees came to find that the whole wood was to be cut down by the help of this handle, There's no remedy say they, but patience, when people are undone by their folly.

The M O R A L.

Nothing goes nearer a man in his misfortune, than be undone by his own fault.

The REMARK.

How many are there who are enemies against themselves; and what a trouble is it for a man to fall by that weapon which he has put in the hand of his foe? Daily experience discovers how many are the cause of their own destruction. And tho' sometimes a man may lose his life or estate without being the cause of it, yet 'tis impossible that a man can lose his soul without being altogether the cause and occasion of it, which will make all such inexcusable in the day of judgment. This fable strikes also at those who are the ruin of their benefactors: The wooden handle cut down the wood wherein it grew. How many employ that life and strength which God gives them, to fight against himself? So that in all ages, people may be justly charged with what God upbraids the Jews, "I have nourished and brought up people, but they have rebelled against me."

FABLE LXXII.

A STAG Drinking.



AS a Stag was drinking in a clear fountain, he saw his image in the water; so fell to admire his fine large and branching horns, but quite despised his legs, thinking they were but

small pitiful thanks. Just as he was upon this thought, he discovered a pack of Dogs coming full cry towards him; away he scours across the fields, and gets into a wood: but pressing thro' a thicket, the bushes held him by the horns till the Hounds came up to him and pulled him down, and as he was dying, he said, What an unhappy fool was I, to take my friends for my enemies, and enemies for my friends? I trusted to my head, that has betrayed me, and I found fault with my legs that would have otherwise carried me off.

The M O R A L.

Such as do not know themselves right, cannot chuse but pass a wrong judgment upon matters that nearly concern them.

The R E M A R K.

Many are ready to admire that which they ought to forsake and abhor; while, on the other hand, they despise and trample upon that which is mostly to be valued and admired. The pomps and vanities of this wicked world, are, what all Christians ought, and are bound by their baptism, to deny; and yet nothing appears so fine and desirable in the eyes of the most part of mankind, as these. Is there any thing so beautiful and lovely as virtue? And yet, how much is it neglected and despised? The reason why men are guilty of such woful mistakes, as to take the worse for the better, and the better for the worse, is, because they do not know themselves, nor the end for which they came into the world, which makes them glory in that which is rather their shame, and which, if not prevented, will prove to be their destruction. But when death comes they will find the difference, and say, as the Stag in the fable, "What fools they were to take their friends for their enemies, and enemies for their friends?"

FABLE LXXIII.

TWO YOUNG MEN and a COOK.



TWO young fellows slipt into a Cook's shop, and while the Cook was busy at his work, one of them stole a piece of flesh, and conveyed it to the other: the Cook missed it immediately, and challenged him with the theft. He that took it, swore he had none of it; and he that had it, swore as confidently that he did not take it. Well, my masters, says the Cook, these tricks may be put upon men, but there is an eye above, that sees thro' them.

The M O R A L.

When we do any thing amiss, and think ourselves secure, by hiding it from men, God, who is the searcher of hearts, sees it.

The R E M A R K.

There is no playing fast and loose with God; for double dealing is what he abhors. And suppose this way may be secured for some time among men, who cannot discover the secret designs that lurk in man's heart; yet at last such persons never fail of betraying themselves; and then how odious do they appear when their knavery is found out? No trust or credit is given them

them, though they back their promises with repeated oaths: so that the common proverb holds true, 'Honesty is the best policy.'

F A B L E LXXIV.

The BOAR and HORSE.



THERE fell a dispute once betwixt a Boar and a Horse, and when they had fought a pretty while, the Boar got the better of the Horse, and beat him out of the field. The Horse grieved at this affront, advised with a man what course he should take to be revenged on the Boar. The man told him, That if he allowed himself to be bridled and saddled, and take one on his back with a lance in his hand, he should be sufficiently revenged on him. The Horse agreed to it: but tho' he got his enemy killed, yet he lost his liberty by it, and made himself a slave all the days of his life.

The M O R A L.

He is a madman, who, to avoid a present and less evil, runs himself into a greater.

The REMARK.

This fable discovers to us the folly of such as make themselves slaves to their revenge: for no man should be so angry with another, as to hurt himself. How many do in haste what they repent at leisure; and for the gratifying of a sroward humour, make themselves slaves all their days, as the Horse in the fable? who had better passed by the affront? but his stomach was too great, and did as many others do, ruin himself, that he might but ruin his enemy. We may easily observe by this, That there is nothing better for a man's body, as well as his soul, than the Christian doctrine of the forgiving of enemies, tho' the world look upon such as pass by affronts to be nothing else but cowards; and that man that runs himself upon the sword of another, whom he would kill, is looked upon to be a brave gallant man, tho' he be such another fool as the Horse in the fable, who paid dear for his revenge.

F A B L E LXXV.

A HORSE and a LION.



A Lion longed for a piece of good horse-flesh, but, not knowing how to come by it, by reason of his age and want of strength, he made

made use of this contrivance: he came to a Horse, and gave out himself to be a farrier, thinking to amuse the Horse with a long story of his art and experience. The Horse, finding his knavery, designed to be as cunning as he; therefore pretending to have lately pricked his foot, he entreated the physician that he would be pleased to look upon it, to pull out the thorn, and give him ease. O, says the Lion, do but hold up your leg a little, and I will cure you immediately. But as he was looking to it, the Horse gave him a terrible blow upon the fore-head with his heel, which laid him flat, and so got off. When the Lion had recovered a little. Well, says he, I am rightily served for my folly, and I see the Horse has repaid knavery with knavery.

The M O R A L.

It often happens, that people are paid home in their own coin, and the deceiver himself is deceived.

The R E M A R K.

Tho' it be commendable in all men to supply their want of strength, by industry and invention, yet they ought to keep their skill within the bounds of justice and honesty; and when they go beyond it, they may expect, some time or other, to be served as the Lion was by the Horse: for what measure we give to others we shall be served in the same measure again, sooner or later. It would be good for many, that they were as sharp-sighted as the horse here was, and could distinguish between a good physician and a dissembling quack, and so reward them accordingly; then we should not see so many wheedled out of their money, as well as their lives.

FABLE LXXVI.

A STAG and a VINE.



A Stag that was hard pushed by the Huntsmen, ran into a vineyard, and took shelter under the root of a Vine. When the huntsmen were gone, and he thought the danger was over, he fell presently to browsing upon the leaves. The rustling of the boughs made some of the huntsmen apprehend that he might be there: so, upon a strict search, he was discovered and shot; and, as he was dying, he said, How justly am I punished, for offering to destroy my protector?

The M O R A L.

'Tis but just that those, who wrong their benefactors, should be punished with divine vengeance.

The R E M A R K.

There is nothing more abominable in the sight of God and man, than ingratitude; and such as repay good with evil, in seeking the ruin of their protectors, seldom escape the judgments of God. This fable exposes

poses the baseness of this vice, as many other fable in Æsop do; but all that God commands, or men preach, or beasts practise against this sin, will not put a stop to the wicked and ungrateful doings of malicious spirits, and a man that can be ungrateful, is capable of any manner of wickedness.

F A B L E LXXVII.

The GEESE and CRANES.



AS some Geese and Cranes were feeding in a countryman's field of corn, he heard the noise, and came presently out upon them. The Cranes seeing the countryman, they flew for it; but the Geese tarrying behind, because of the heaviness of their bodies, were caught.

The M O R A L.

This fable signifies, that, in the taking of a town, the poor easily escape, while the rich, tarrying behind to save their riches, commonly lose both lives and estates.

The R E M A R K.

It is strange, how riches alter the tempers of men, how timorous it makes some who have been brave

and how secure it makes others, who trusting to their money, and thinking to escape by its means, makes them only the greater prey to their enemies. This fable is a severe rebuke to such as take no care to provide for times of danger, but go on in their old courses, until they be suddenly destroyed; and tho' they have many examples to warn them, yet their vices and corrupt affections so hang about them and clog them, that they never will cast them off, until they are brought unto destruction. Had the Geese been so wise as to get off with the Cranes, they might have saved themselves, but the sweetness of the corn, whereupon they were feeding, and the weight of their dull bodies, quite stopt them, until they were caught.

F A B L E LXXVIII.

A FOX and a sick LION.



A Lion falling sick, all the beasts came to visit him except the Fox; whereupon the lion sent to tell him, That he longed to see him, and that his presence would be very acceptable to him. He moreover desired the messenger to assure the Fox, that for several reasons

reasons he had no occasion to be afraid of him; because the Lion was one, that loved the Fox very well, and therefore desired to speak with him; besides that, he lay so sick, that he could not stir to do the Fox any harm, tho' he had ever so great a mind to it. The Fox returned a very obliging answer, desiring the messenger to acquaint the Lion, that he was very desirous of his recovery, and that he would pray to the gods for it; but, at the same time desired to be excused for not coming to see him, as other beasts had done; for, truly, says Reynard, the traces of their feet frighten me, all of them going toward his Majesty's palace, but none coming back again.

The M O R A L

Words are not to be trusted, though ever so fair; we must examine men's actions as well as their words and promises, and judge of the one by the other if we would escape their mischievous intentions.

The R E M A R K.

The proverb holds true, 'Larks are not to be catch'd with chaff:' The Lion, by his pretended sickness and weakness, thought that the Fox, in point of civility, ought to pay him a visit, but sending such a kind invitation, so full of compliments, was still a great obligation on the Fox to pay his respects to him; but Reynard was too sharp sighted not to see through his design. Though truly it is a hard matter sometimes to distinguish between a friendly invitation and a hypocritical snare, so that a man is often at a loss, not knowing but he may disoblige a friend, whilst he thinks only to save himself from the hands of an enemy; however, while the world is full of tricks, it is always the best and wisest method to take particular care where any signs of a suspicion appear.

FABLE LXXIX.

A TRUMPETER taken Prisoner.



WHEN an army had been routed, a trumpeter was taken prisoner; and, as the soldiers were going to kill him, Gentlemen, says he, why should you kill a man that has killed no-body? You shall die the rather for that, says one of the company; when, like aascal as you are, you don't fight yourself, yet let other people together by the ears.

The M O R A L.

He that provokes others to mischief, is as much, if not more guilty, than the doers themselves.

The R E M A R K.

This fable reproves such as take delight in setting people together by the ears, which is quite opposite to the Christian duty of being peaceable and meek. 'Blessed are the peace-makers, says our Saviour, for they shall be called the children of God.' For God is a God of peace and love. Malice, hatred and envy, which make such differences among people, proceed from Satan the prince of darkness; but meekness, goodness, and brotherly kindness, is what Christ, the Prince of Peace, strictly commands. We may easily judge by

people's practice, whose children they are; for whoever takes pleasure in divisions, strife and discord, must be of their father the devil, whose works they do, let their pretences be ever so fair.

F A B L E LXXX.

A HUSBANDMAN and a STORK.



A Poor innocent Stork had the ill-hap to be taken in a net that was laid for Geese and Cranes. The Stork's plea for herself was simplicity, good-nature, and the love of mankind together with the service she did in picking up venomous creatures. This is all true, says the Husbandman; but they that keep ill company (if they be caught with ill company) must expect to suffer with ill company.

The M O R A L.

A man is esteemed according to the company he keeps for 'tis a common saying, which will be applied in this case, 'That birds of a feather flock together.'

The R E M A R K.

There are many inconveniencies that attend the keeping of bad company. A lewd and wicked exam-

will be ready to have influence upon the person that frequents vicious company, and if he should escape from the plague, which is very rare, yet his credit and reputation suffers; so that when the good and bad are taken up together, they must go together; for 'tis a common proverb, 'Shew me the company, and I'll shew you the man.' 'Tis the bad fortune of many a good man to fall into base company, and to be undone by it, and yet be no-ways guilty of the iniquity of his companions; but were a man ever so innocent, 'tis a shame and dishonour to be taken with rogues; for very few escape from being poisoned with their vices. And it holds very true what the Apostle saith, "That evil communications corrupt good manners."

F A B L E LXXXI.

The FOX and SNAKE.



A Fox and a Snake chancing to meet, the Snake began to entertain the Fox with a long story concerning her beauty, and the pleasant and charming colours of her spotted skin. The Fox weary with the discourse, interrupted her, and said, That the beauty of the mind was of much greater value and excellence than that of a painted outside.

The M O R A L.

A good understanding is a blessing far exceeding all outward beauty.

The R E M A R K.

Many men are ready to prefer the outward blessings, such as beauty, nature, and riches, to wisdom, temperance and piety, and other inward blessings, far more valuable; for they only represent man, and distinguish him from the beasts. We have few outward advantages beyond the other creatures, but we are inferior to them in many, such as in strength, swiftuess, hearing, seeing, and all the other senses: so that were it not for inward advantages, man would be rather a prey to, than a lord over the other creatures. How unaccountable is the most part of mankind, that run so much upon their sensual appetites, and neglect the noble part of man, the soul: so that they are worse than the beasts that perish.

F A B L E LXXXII.

A FATHER and his SONS.



AN honest man who had the misfortune to be the father of a contentious brood of children, endeavoured all he could to make them to be more friendly towards one another

her; and one day, having called them before him, he brought a bundle of sticks, and desired his children to take it, and try, one after another, with all their force, if they could break it; they tried, but could not. Well, says he, unbind it now, and take every one a stick of it a-part, and see what ye can do that way: they did as he bade, and with great ease they snapt every one of the sticks to pieces. The father then told them, Children, your condition is exactly that of the bundle of sticks; for, if you keep together, you are safe; but if you divide, you are undone.

The M O R A L.

Small things increase by peace and unity, whereas great things decay and dwindle away to nothing by discord.

The R E M A R K.

Division is what has been the ruin of great and powerful kingdoms, as well as of private families. Was it not division that exposed Christendom to the fury of the Turks, Infidels, and Barbarians? and every one knows how fatal division is to private families, where all things go to ruin, when one strives against another. And it is a strange thing that men, with all their knowledge and reason, cannot do what the brute beasts do: for we find, that even the fiercest of them, such as tygers, wolves, and bears, agree among themselves. Nay, the very devils, who, though they be like so many firebrands setting mankind together by the ears, yet they seem to agree among themselves. For our Saviour says, "If Satan be divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?" There is not one precept so often enjoined by our Saviour, as unity and brotherly-love; for he makes it the distinguishing mark of his servants: "By this shall all men know, says he, that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another."

FABLE LXXXIII.

The WASPS and PARTRIDGES.



A Flight of Wasps, and a covey of Partridges, that were hard put to it for water, went to a farmer, and begged a sup of him to quench their thirst. The Partridges offered to dig his vineyard for it; and the Wasps promised to secure him from thieves. Pray, hold your peace, says the farmer, I have oxen and dogs to do me these offices already, and I am resolved to provide for them in the first place.

The M O R A L.

Charity begins at home: and 'tis very true what the Apostle says, "He that does not provide for his family, is worse than an infidel."

The R E M A R K.

People ought to know well how to bestow their charity. For a man to rob his family of what is necessary, under the pretence of charity, is like the sacrifice of the wicked which is an abomination to the Lord; but people ought not, under the cloak of providing for themselves and families, when they have affluence and plenty, to refuse to distribute to the necessities of the poor; for this is what will not excuse them; neither is it possible

possible, that such can love God or his neighbour; for as the Apostle says, "He that seeth his brother want, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion against him, how can the love of God be in him?" A man's prudence will always direct him how to behave himself in such cases; only let a man be sincere in what he does, for God loveth a cheerful giver.

FABLE LXXXIV.

A DAW and PIGEONS.



A Daw took particular notice of Pigeons in a Dove-house, that they were well fed and provided for; so he went and painted himself of a Dove colour, and fed among the Pigeons. So long as he kept silent, this passed very well; but it happened that (forgetting himself) he fell a chattering: upon which discovery, he was turned out of the Dove-house, and when he came to his old companions, they would not receive him. So by these means, he lost both parties.

The M O R A L.

He that halts between two opinions, loses himself with both parties; for when he is discovered, he is found true to neither.

The R E M A R K,

Some, by grasping at too much, lose all; and by aiming at what they have not, and cannot well obtain, lose what they had before. And men do but make themselves ridiculous, in imitating that which they cannot do. For tho' the Daw painted herself like a Pigeon, yet it did not make her one; and tho' a man put himself into another man's shape, yet he is commonly discovered. The hypocrite is never so far from being a good Christian, as when he looks like it; and double dealers are always discovered by some accident or other; and then both parties beat them away. So that every man ought to be true and honest to what he purposes.

F A B L E LXXV.

FOX and HUNTSMEN.



A Fox that had been hard run, begged of a countryman, whom he saw hard at work in a wood, to help him to some hiding place: the man directed him to his cottage, and thither he went. He was no sooner got in, but the Huntsmen were presently at his heels, and asked the cottager if he saw a Fox that way? No, truly, says he, I saw none, but pointed at the
same

same time with his finger to the place where he lay: the Huntsmen it seems, did not understand his meaning, but the Fox spied him, however, thro' a peeping hole he had found, to see what news. So the Fox-hunters went away; and then out steals the Fox, without one word speaking. Why, how now, says the man, have you not the manners to take leave of your host before you go? Yes, yes, says the Fox, if you had been as honest of your fingers as you were of your tongue, I should not have gone without bidding you farewell.

The M O R A L.

A man may discover things by signs, as well as by words, and his conscience is as answerable for his fingers as his tongue.

The R E M A R K.

There is no trusting those that say one thing, and do another, especially if they follow fair words with foul deeds. 'Tis a base and treacherous thing for any man to betray one who commits himself to his mercy: especially while he lies under all the ties of honour, trust and faith to preserve him. There be many instances of the woodman's double dealing in these bad times; for interest is the only rule whereby men now walk, without any regard to God or their neighbour; and where it intervenes, it discharges all our obligations. And let people pretend to what religion they will, gold and money is now the god they adore; which makes the father betray the son, the mother the daughter, and the servant the master: so what our Saviour foretold, may be applied to these times, "That a man's enemies should be these of his own house:" as also that of St. Paul's, "In the last days, perilous times shall come: for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, unthankful, truce-breakers, without natural affection, traitors, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

FABLE LXXXVI.

The CHOUGH and SWALLOW.



THE Chough and Swallow fell into a warm dispute about their beauty: the Swallow insisted mightily on hers, and claimed the advantage, Nay, says the Chough, you forget, that your beauty decays with the spring, whereas, mine lasts all the year round.

The M O R A L.

Of two things equally good, that is the best which lasts longest.

The R E M A R K.

The greatest blessings we can enjoy in this world, are health and long life; which are still more valuable the longer we enjoy them; but, yet the strongest man must expect to fall sick, sooner or later, and the longest life hath an end. So that these, together with riches, honours, and pleasures, are like the Swallow's beauty, which lasts but for a time. But piety and goodness, are what afford a man not only satisfaction in this life, but also joys which shall endure for ever in that life which is to come. Therefore they are fools who value themselves upon the short-lived pleasures of this life, as the Swallow did upon her spring beauty, and neglect

to secure to themselves, those lasting pleasures which are at God's right hand for evermore.

F A B L E LXXXVII.

The Fox that lost his TAIL.



A Fox having his tail cut off, to get out of a trap, when for shame he thought it death to live, devised to persuade other Foxes to cut off theirs, under pretence of common benefit, but really to lessen his own disgrace. The Foxes therefore having convened, he told them, that their tails were not only a disgrace to them, but an useless burden. One of them who heard him, smartly answered, O brother! where is your justice to advise us all to do a thing which will be to no-body's advantage but your own?

The M O R A L.

This fable belongs to them, who under a shew of charity and kindness to others, aim at their own profit and advantage.

The R E M A R K.

The most part of mankind are so wicked, that they never love to be miserable without company. When they

they make any false step, or find themselves guilty of any oversight or mistake, they never think how to come off handsomely, or how to correct their error. No, this is the least of their thoughts; then their only study is, how to deceive others; and to succeed the better in their design, they never fail to use fair words to tender (seemingly) wholesome and charitable counsel without being asked, and never give over till they have persuaded others to run into the same snare, wherein they themselves were caught. In this they imitate the devil, who, finding himself miserable by his own doings, was never at rest, until he persuaded our first parents to ruin themselves. What smooth language did he use? How specious arguments to entice two innocent creatures to be partakers of his guilt? If this sad truth were well imprinted in our memory, it would prove to us as a beacon to seamen, and shew us how to escape these dangers and hidden rocks of flattery and pretended charity, whereupon so many suffer ship-wreck.

F A B L E LXXXVIII.

A Sick MAN making large PROMISES.



A Poor sick man given over by the physicians, betook himself to prayers, and vowed to sacrifice a thousand bullocks to either Apollo

ollo or Æsculapius, which of the two would deliver him from his diseases. Ah! my dear, says his wife, who was standing by, have a care what you promise; for where could you get these oxen should you recover? Wife, says the sick Man, thou talkest like a fool; have the gods nothing else to do, dost thou think, than to leave their heavenly business, and come to this lower world to sue me in an action of debt? They heard his prayer however, and restored him for that bout to make trial of his honesty and good faith. He was no sooner up, but for want of living oxen, he offered upon an altar so many pieces of paste made up in the shape of oxen: for this mockery, divine vengeance pursued him; and he had an apparition came to him in a dream, that bade him go and search in such a place near the coast, and he should find a considerable treasure. Away he went, and as he was looking for money, he fell into the hands of pirates, he begged hard for his liberty, and offered a thousand talents in gold for his ransom; but the pirates would not trust him, and so carried him away, and sold him afterwards as a slave for as many groats.

The M O R A L.

Many in their adversity, promise to God more than they intend to make good in their prosperity.

The R E M A R K.

'Tis the practice of the world, for people in distress, serve God and mankind alike. For when they lie under any heavy affliction, and find they have need of another's help; how do they vow and promise, and yet are conscious to themselves, that they neither intend nor are

able to make any one article good? What a rash and knavish promise was it in this poor fellow, who could not but know, that he was in no case able to perform his vow! So his design could be nothing else but to put a trick upon God if he could: the foolish attempts of men, who, while they think to cheat God, only cheat themselves. What the Apostle says, is very applicable in this case, "Be not deceived, for God will not be mocked; for as you sow here, so shall you reap hereafter." And so we see vengeance overtook this wretch at last.

F A B L E LXXIX.

An APE and a Fox.



UPON the death of the Lion, the beasts met in council to chuse a king: several put in for it, but one wanted brains, another strength, and a third stature, or something else: at last the Buffoon Ape, with his grimace carried it from the whole, by I know not how many voices. The Fox being one of the pretenders, was not well pleased to see the choice go against him, and presently whispered the

ne

new king in the ear, that he could do him a piece of secret service. Sir, says he, I have discovered some hidden treasure yonder; but, seeing it is a right that belongs to your majesty, I have nothing to do with it. So he carried the Ape to take possession; and what should this treasure be but a bait in a ditch? The Ape lays his hand upon it, and the trap springs, and catches him by the fingers. Ah! thou perfidious wretch, cries the Ape; Ah! thou silly prince rather, replies the Fox; you a governor of others, with a vengeance, that have not wit enough to look to your own fingers!

The M O R A L.

'Tis a great unhappiness to people, to have such a governor, as can neither take care of them, nor of himself, by distinguishing between bad and good counsellors.

The R E M A R K.

'Tis the greatest blessing of a kingdom, to have a wise and prudent prince; neither can there be a greater sign of the divine favour towards it. "Happy are the people (says the Queen of Sheba to Solomon) that hear thy wisdom; because the Lord loved Israel, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice." And, indeed, no kingdom was so flourishing as that of Israel, under the reign of the wisest of kings. But how miserable and distracted was it, when such a weak prince as his son Rehoboam reigned, who forsook the counsel of the old men, who stood before his father Solomon, and followed the counsel of the young men. And such will be the fate of all nations that have weak kings, and cunning and designing counsellors.

FABLE XC.

The FOX and BRAMBLE.



A Fox that was closely pursued, took to a hedge: the bushes gave way, and in catching hold of a bramble to break his fall, the prickles ran into his feet: upon this he laid himself down, and fell a licking of his paws, with bitter complaints against the Bramble. Good words, Reynard, says the Bramble; one would have thought you would have known better things, than to expect a kindness from a common enemy, and to lay hold on that for relief which catches at every thing else for mischief.

The M O R A L.

There are some malicious natures that place all their delight in doing ill turns; and that man is hard put to it, who is first brought into a distress, and then to come to such people for relief.

The R E M A R K.

'Tis a great folly to fly for protection to people who naturally delight in mischief; the Fox blames the Brambles here, but he may thank himself; for how could he expect any good or kindness where there is none? It is

fatal thing for men, when God is offended with them, to go to the devil for relief. This is what destroyed Saul, and proves daily the destruction of many. Men commonly, when pursued by an evil conscience, and pressed hard by the guilt of their sins, run to a tavern and drown their senses in a debauch, or else go a whoring, or gaming, with a design to stifle these thoughts; tho' all these shifts afford no better comfort than the Bramble did the Fox, rather adding to, than diminishing these stings.

F A B L E X C I.

A MAN and a WOODEN GOD.



A Man that had a great veneration for an image he had in his house, found that the more he prayed to it, the more he went down the wind still. This put him into such a rage, to pray so long and so earnestly, and yet to so little purpose, that at last he dashed the head of it to pieces against the wall, and out comes a considerable quantity of gold. Why, this it is, says he, to adore a perverse and senseless Deity, that will do more for blows than for worship.

The M O R A L.

If we ever expect good from a bad person, it is only when he is forced to do it.

The R E M A R K.

This wooden image is like a great many in the world who notwithstanding all the application that people make to them, and their dependance on them, yet never do any good, either for prayers or entreaties, until they are forced to it by necessity. This image resembles also those base and stupidly covetous wretches, with whom neither prayers, tears, nor the distressed condition of their suffering brethren, nay, nor the necessities of their own nearest relations can prevail to part with their money till they die; so must needs part with it when they can no longer keep it, and which often-times falls into the hands of those who longed most for their death, and shewed them least respect while alive.

F A B L E LXXV.

MERCURY and a TRAVELLER.



ONE that was entering upon a long journey, made his prayers to Mercury, with a promise that he should go halves with him if what

whatever he found: it was his good fortune to find a bag of dates and almonds, he fell to work upon them immediately: and when he had eaten the kernels, and all that was good of them himself, he laid the stones and shells upon the altar, and desired Mercury to take notice that he had performed his vow; for here, says he, are the outsides of the one, and the insides of the other.

The M O R A L.

'Tis a vain thing to suppose that we can put a trick upon God, and think, that after solemn vows and promises, we may come off with such slender performances.

The R E M A R K.

Men may talk as if they believed in God, but they live as if there were none? for their very prayers and vows are mockeries, and what they say, they never intend to make good. If men did narrowly search their own hearts, they would find, that more or less they are jugglers in secret betwixt heaven and their own souls: many a thousand wicked and false things can they charge themselves with, which they hide as the greatest secret in the world from their neighbours; but did they rightly consider, that the Almighty God sees them, from whom nothing can be hid, and who will judge the secrets of all men's hearts in the day of judgment, I say, did they but seriously consider this, they would do nothing in secret, but what they might expose to the eye of the whole world.

FABLE XCIII.

Two Cocks fighting.



TWO Cocks fought a duel for the mastery of the dung-hill. He that was worsted, flunk away into a corner and hid himself: the other took his flight up to the top of a house, and there, with crowing and clapping of his wings, made a proclamation of his victory. An eagle made a stop at him, in the middle of his gallantry, and, carrying the conqueror away with him, his rival took possession of the dung-hill they contended for, and had all his mistresses to himself again.

The M O R A L.

This fable shews, that he who is too proud in prosperity, often falls headlong into adversity.

The R E M A R K.

Solomon observes very truly, "that pride goeth before destruction." And how many instances have we of such, whose pride and ambition were the fore-runners of their fall? What a short time was there between
twix'

twixt Haman's being the greatest favourite at court, and his being hanged on the gallows he had prepared for another? And it is no wonder that proud men should meet with such falls, when they have such a strong and mighty enemy to grapple with: for the Apostle assures us, "that God resisteth the proud." It fares often with the greatest of monarchs, as with these Cocks; he that is victorious to-day, may be a slave to-morrow. With what proud and blasphemous words did the king of Syria insult over the Israelites? but we see to what a low pass he was brought by the destroying hand of God. Belshazzar, in the midst of his glory and pomp, had the mortification to see, by a hand writing on the wall, himself and his kingdom condemned into the hands of the Persians.

F A B L E XCIV.

A LION IN LOVE.



A Lion was in love with a country lass, and desired her father's consent to have her in marriage. The answer he gave was churlish enough: he would never agree to it, he said, upon any terms, to marry his daughter to a beast. The Lion gave him a very sour look, which

which brought the fellow upon second thoughts to strike up a bargain with him upon these conditions; that his teeth should be drawn, and his nails pared: these were things, he said, that the foolish girl was terribly afraid of. The Lion sends immediately for a surgeon to do the work; and as soon as the operation was over, he goes and challenges her father upon his promise. The countryman seeing the Lion disarmed, plucked up a good heart, and with a swinging cudgel so ordered the matter, that he broke off the match.

The M O R A L.

What will not love make a body do? it consults neither life, fortune, nor reputation; but sacrifices all, that can be dear to men of sense and honour, to an extravagant passion.

The R E M A R K.

What strange alteration does this passion make on the minds of men? There's nothing so fierce or savage, but love will soften it: nothing so sharp sighted in other matters, but it makes it stupid and blind. What a vast number of examples do all ages furnish us with of this kind? The strongest men, both of sacred and profane history, were slaves to it: all the wisdom of Solomon could not resist it, who to his sad experience said, "That love was strong as death; that many waters could not quench love, neither could the floods drown it." And how often does he caution men to take care of this, and advise them to think seriously upon the laws of God, as the only antidote against it? "For the commandment, says he, is a lamp, and the law is light, to keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of a strange woman; for by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread." We have sad objects every day in our view, who are convincing proofs of the dismal consequences of this blind and bewitching passion.

FABLE XCV.

A League betwixt the WOLVES and SHEEP.



A War once broke out between the Wolves and the Sheep, wherein the Sheep had, for the most part, the better of it, being assisted by the Dogs, with whom they had made an alliance. The Wolves, taking this into consideration, sent ambassadors to the sheep, with proposals of peace. The sheep having heard the proposals, by which they were to have the Wolves' whelps delivered up to them for their security, as the Wolves were to have the Dogs for theirs, delivered up to them, a peace was immediately patched up. Some time after, as the sheep were feeding, as they thought, very securely, because of the late agreement, the Wolves' whelps fell a howling; whereupon the Wolves came presently rushing in, complaining loud that the sheep had broke the peace, and were using their hostages with cruelty.

elty. The Sheep denied the charge, but to little or no purpose; for the Wolves fell upon them, and easily destroyed them, knowing that they had no more Dogs to stand by them.

The M O R A L.

'Tis the greatest folly and madness imaginable, to think true and sincere friendship can be settled, where nature herself has placed an unalterable aversion and disagreement. A bloody and expensive war does not half so much harm to a nation, as a foolish and ill-grounded peace.

The R E M A R K.

Tho' we are advised in scripture to be harmless as doves, yet we are not less warned to be prudent as serpents. No nation ought tamely to listen to the wheedling proposals of an enemy, who proffers an agreement of a suspension and cessation of arms, only to gain time or advantage, either to save himself, when he finds he is too hard put to it by his opposers, or to work their ruin, by enticing them to part with their surest allies and defenders, who, by their assistance, have obliged him to change his method, and lay aside his open force, and have recourse to a seeming agreement, which never lasts longer, than he can break it with convenience. Not only nations, but private persons also ought always to be upon their guard, not to expose themselves to the cunning and cruelty of self-designing neighbours, who use fair means, when they find the foul will not do, to ruin those they find in the way, to hinder their mischievous and unwarrantable designs. And as we are obliged to be upon our guard against our temporal enemies, we are much more, against our spiritual ones, who are worse than the Wolves here mentioned in the fable; for when they cannot by open force get any advantage over us, they presently have recourse to smoother terms, and even put on sheeps cloathing, that they may the more conveniently devour the flock.

FABLES in PROSE and VERSE.

F A B L E XCVI.

The MONKEY, the CAT, and the CHESNUTS.

A Monkey observing his master to lay some chesnuts in the fire to roast, he was very desirous to taste of them, but was likewise much afraid of burning his fingers, so that, tho' he often attempted to take them out, yet he was as often discouraged by the heat of the fire; whereupon he was a long time contriving with himself, how to attain his end; at length he perceived a young Kitten sleeping by the fire; whereupon he presently resolves, that Puffs shall be his instrument to gain his purpose: and catching her up in his arms, notwithstanding her squalling, and all the resistance she could make, yet Pug being stronger, takes her fore-foot in his hand, and thrusting it into the fire, gets out the Chesnuts, which he with much greediness devours. The poor Cat had her foot miserably burnt, and asks him, weeping, why he could use her so cruelly, without any provocation given him: the Monkey knew he had wronged her, and could say little in his own vindication, yet willing to make a lame defence rather than none, impudently replies: I must confess the cast was somewhat severe, but yet it is not so much as you justly deserve to suffer, considering the wicked, slothful, and sleepy life that you lead.

The M O R A L.

Some men care not what abuses they put upon others, nor what trouble and danger they bring them into, so they can but compass their own ends and purposes; and how many are made use of to bring about

the designs and contrivances of ill men, who, when their turn is served, are so far from gratifying them, that they scoff and laugh at their easiness and folly.

F A B L E XCVI.

The MONKEY, the CAT, and the CHESNUTS.

A Monkey saw his master roast
 Some Chesnuts by the fire,
 And Pug being very liquorish,
 To taste them did desire;
 But was afraid to burn himself,
 Neither could he contrive
 Which way he without trouble might
 To his design arrive.
 But seeing Puss ly by the fire,
 He was resolv'd that she
 The pain and danger should endure
 His instrument to be.
 And catching her into his arms,
 He with her foot doth get
 The roasted Chesnuts, which he
 Most greedily did eat.
 The Cat's foot is severely burnt,
 Who, weeping with the pain,
 Against the Monkey's cruelty
 Doth wofully complain;
 Quoth she, Why hast thou us'd me thus,
 What mischief have I wrought
 To thee or thine, that thou hast now
 This misery on me brought?
 Pug knew that he had wronged her,
 And little had to plead
 In vindication of himself
 For this injurious deed:

Yet like a villain he replies,
 You need not cry and roar,
 Since for your slothful wicked life,
 You ought to suffer more.
 For you, and all your kindred too,
 Most idly spend your time;
 Yea, but to wet your foot forsooth,
 You think a grievous crime.
 For these and other faults, whereof
 I an account could give,
 If you but your just merits had
 You don't deserve to live.

The M O R A L.

*Ill men do very seldom mind
 What hazards others run
 On their behalf, so that they can
 But have their business done.*

F A B L E XCVII.

The young M O U S E, the C O C K, and the C A T.

A Young Mouse, being an only son, had been so carefully bred up by his mother, that she would never permit him to go beyond the mouth of her hole. But, growing up, the young creature had a desire to look abroad into the world, which his mother was very fearful he should do: Alas! child, says she, there is so much treachery abroad, that if you once go out of my sight, I never expect to see you again; Dear mother, quoth he, fear nothing, I will only go and look through the crevice of the door, and come back instantly: his importunity prevailed, and so he goes into the next room, and peeps into the yard, where he saw a Cat walk very demurely by the door, who laid herself down in the warm sun: the young Mouse much wondered at her gravity,

vity, and was extremely taken with her shape and sober carriage; soon after a Cock comes by very briskly, who clapping his wings, set up a loud crow, whereat our young traveller was so affrighted, that all pale and trembling, he runs back to his mother, who glad of his return hugged him tenderly, demanding the cause of his great surprize and fright; ah, mother, quoth he, I saw a dreadful creature with a red piece of flesh on his head like a crown, and the like under his chin, and horns on his heels, who, with things like arms beating his sides, made such a horrible noise as almost feared me out of my wits, just when I was admiring a very fine creature of so modest a look, and so cleanly and neat, lying in the sun, that I hardly could forbear running to kiss and hug her: the old Mouse perceiving his mistake, my dear, says she, that proud strutting thing will never hurt thee, but be sure to avoid that other modest one, who will certainly be the death of thee with the first opportunity.

The M O R A L.

We must not always judge of men by their looks and carriage, neither are some roaring sparks so much to be dreaded as some demure and sober knaves.

F A B L E XCVII.

The young MOUSE, the COCK, and the CAT.

A Young Mouse and an only son,
 With tenderness and care,
 Was by his mother bred, who of
 His life stood in much fear.
 And kept him close within her hole
 Till grown, who then doth creep
 Into the adjoining room, where thro'
 A crevice he doth peep.

And

And in the yard he there espies
 A Cat demure and grave,
 With whom he wishes that he could
 But some acquaintance have.
 Soon after he observes a Cock,
 That by the door doth go,
 Who with his wings doth clap his sides,
 And chearfully did crow.
 At which the Mouse was almost fear'd
 Out of his wits, and run
 Post haste unto his mother, who
 With joy receives her son.
 Demanding what the reason was
 of his so great affright:
 Oh mother, I have seen, quoth he,
 A very dreadful sight;
 A monster, with a crown on's head,
 and horned heels march'd by,
 Who, with his arms clapping his sides,
 Sent forth a hideous cry.
 Whereat I was surpriz'd, being then
 Admiring of a creature,
 Sober and modest in her look,
 And of a modest feature.
 With whom I was resolv'd to make
 A league of amity.
 'The mother finding by his talk,
 Her son's simplicity,
 She tells him from that strutting thing }
 He need no danger fear,
 But for his life, he never should
 That serious one come near.

The M O R A L.

*By modest looks we scarce can judge,
 What really men are,
 For the demure are oft more false
 Than noisy sparks by far.*

F A B L E XCVIII.

The WOLF and MARE.

THE Fox and Wolf travelling together, they met with a Mare which had a Foal by her side, that was very fat and smooth, the Wolf was almost famished with hunger, and desired his cousin Reynard to go and ask the Mare, what she would take for her Colt: truly says the Mare, I am in great want of money, and would willingly sell him; and what do you value him at, quoth the Fox? Why, brother, says she, the price is written on my hinder foot, and if you please you may read it; excuse me, sister, crieth the Fox, for I cannot read, neither do I desire to buy your Foal for myself, but am only sent as a messenger from the Wolf, who has a great mind for him; well said the Mare, let him come himself, and no doubt but we shall bargain: the Fox went to the Wolf, and carried this answer, asking him if he could read writing; read, quoth he, do you doubt it? Let me tell thee, cousin, I can read both Latin, French, Dutch and English; I have studied at the university, and disputed with several doctors: I have seen many famous plays, and heard divers trials in courts of judicature: I have taken my degrees in the law, and there is no writing but I can readily understand; well, come on then, quoth the Fox, and read the value of the Colt in the Mare's hinder foot; away he goes, and desires to read the price, she lifts up her foot, which had a strong iron shoe newly put on with many sharp headed nails, and while the Wolf was earnest to read the writing, she struck him so full on the fore-head, that he fell over and over, and lay a long while for dead, all bloody and sorely wounded, while the Mare went away trotting with the Colt, and laughing at his folly and stupidity.

ty. At length recovering, cousin Reynard, quoth he, what a roguish trick has this jade served me? for, thinking the nails had been letters, while I was reading them, she hit me so strongly on the face, that I fear my skull is broken. Alas! cousin, quoth the Fox, I find the proverb true in you, *That the greatest scholars are not always the wisest men.*

The M O R A L.

These that pretend to the most learning, and are much conceited by their own knowledge, do many times fall into great misfortunes, and are made a scorn of by those that bring them into mischief.

F A B L E XCVIII.

The WOLF and MARE.

THE Fox and Wolf together walk'd
 Along the forest, where
 They saw a fat brisk wanton colt,
 Which suck'd a lusty mare.
 The Wolf was almost starv'd, and so
 He Reynard does intreat,
 To ask the price of him, that he
 Might something have to eat.
 The Fox goes to the Mare and asks
 If she her Foal will sell,
 And if she willing be to trade,
 The lowest price to tell.
 The Mare cries, I will sell him, if
 I can a chapman find,
 And for the price, 'tis plainly writ
 Upon my foot behind.
 He knowing the Mare's subtilty,
 Pretends he could not read,
 And so desires to be excus'd,
 Declaring, that indeed

It was not for himself that he
 Did come the Colt to buy,
 But at his cousin Wolf's request,
 Who was but just hard by.
 Then let him come himself, quoth she,
 That he his price may see,
 And if he my proposals like,
 We quickly shall agree.
 Read, quoth the Wolf, cuz, doubt not that,
 I all my time have spent
 In learning, and in all known tongues
 I am most excellent.
 He then goes to the Mare, who had
 Been newly shod, to read
 The nails which he thought words; but whilst
 He holdeth close his head,
 The treacherous Mare upon the skull,
 Gave him so smart a blow,
 As the poor Wolf was almost kill'd,
 And backward did him throw.
 The Fox then cries, cousin, I find
 The ancient proverb true,
Great scholars are not always wise,
 As now 'tis seen by you.

The M O R A L.

*Those that pretend to understand,
 More than they truly know,
 Are oft abus'd and mock'd, by them
 That seek their overthrow.*

F A B L E XCIX.

WOLF and APES.

A Wolf in the midst of winter was ready to die
 for want, but happening to meet a Fox, whom
 he observed to be fat, and in good case, he asked him
 how he came to live so well in this hard season; the
Fox

Fox shewed him where the Ape and her young lay in the den, saying, Had it not been for that charitable creature, I should have wanted as much as you, but there I have oft been invited and found kind entertainment; witness the fragments of my supper last night, and therewith gave the Wolf some remains of his meat, which he ate with greediness, desiring the Fox to tell him how he might get in favour with the Ape. That is not difficult, quoth he, only by framing yourself to flattery and lying, if that be all quoth the Wolf, I can soon practise it, and thereupon runs with all speed to the den, but was no sooner in than he cry'd out, Ah sohl what a nasty stink is here: and then seeing the old Ape hugging her deformed young ones; surely, quoth he, in all my life I never saw such ugly creatures as these: whereat the Apes being enraged, they all fell upon him together, one biting him by the nose, another by the neck, and the rest in other places, so that he was forced to run out with all speed to save his life; and finding the Fox, related his misfortune to him: You are well enough served, quoth he, since you forgot my counsel, and spoke truth when you should have told lies; Do you think I had lost my smelling and eye-sight? and yet I told the Ape that her house was perfumed with sweet wood, and that I was mightily pleased to see such a beautiful lady have such a fine offspring of young ones to keep up the family; upon which the best in the house was set before me, but during supper I was very careful not to speak a word of truth, and hereby I was treated so gallantly, or else I might have starved, as you are like to do ere you have any relief from her.

The M O R A L.

Most men are too much pleased with flattery, and nothing is more disobliging than to tell them their faults, or impartially to censure their actions.

FABLE

F A B L E XCIX.

The WOLF and APES.

A Wolf in winter almost starv'd,
 Who nothing had to eat,
 Neither could possibly contrive
 Provision how to get,
 Happen'd to meet a Fox who look'd
 So fat, and plump, and well,
 That the Wolf cries, I pray thee cuz
 But, be so kind as tell
 How thou dost thus maintain thyself
 And art in such good plight?
 Ah, quoth the Fox, the Ape's my friend
 Who oft doth me invite
 Into her den, who nobly lives,
 And where I need not fear
 To meet with turkies, geese and hens,
 And other dainty cheer.
 But, says the Wolf, can you tell how
 I may her favour get,
 And thereby be partaker of
 This plenteous store of meat?
 Yes, cousin, says the Fox, if you
 Can lie and flatter well,
 But have a care whate'er you do,
 The truth you never tell.
 That's quickly learnt, quoth he, and then
 Into the den he goes,
 And cries, Foh, what a nasty stink
 Is this offends my nose.
 Then seeing how the young Apes were
 Embraced by the old,
 They are the ugliest things, quoth he,
 That e'er I did behold.

The Cubs enrag'd, upon him fell,
 And wounded him all o'er,
 So that to save his life, with speed
 He ran out of the door,
 And meeting with the Fox, he does
 His sad misfortune tell,
 Who cry'd, you for your folly do
 Deserve it very well.
 What, do you think I could not see,
 And smell as well as you?
 Yet I the old one, lady call'd,
 And prais'd the young ones too.

The M O R A L.

*Most men love flattery, and scarce
 Can ever truly love,
 Those that plainly for their faults,
 Or vices them reprove.*

F A B L E C.

APE TURNED CARPENTER.

AN unlucky Ape sitting opposite to a Carpenter's yard, took much notice how he wrought, and was mightily desirous to imitate him, discoursing thus with himself; certainly I could be master of this trade without seven years slavery to learn it, as no doubt this dull fellow hath had; for I am of opinion that it is only for want of practice, or else we Apes could soon outdo men in all arts and sciences; and I remember a notable king in India having taken several of my elder brethren, called baboons, prisoners, he was resolved to put them to plow and sow, and to make soldiers of them, alledging that they would not speak, because they were idle and unwilling to work; well, I have a great inclination to try my skill, but, I hope, I shall have

have better fortune than a nephew of mine, who living in a house over against a cobbler, and often observing how he cut his leather to pieces to soal his shoes, when the cobbler was absent he leaps into his stall, and strives to imitate him, who, returning and finding the leather all mangled and spoiled, resolved to be revenged; and one day when he saw my cousin pug look earnestly at him, he took up his sharp cutting knife, and drew it over his throat divers times, and then going away, my silly kinsman skipped instantly into his shop, and taking his knife thinking to do the same, he cuts his own throat there with and died, but I'll take more care, and so getting into the Carpenter's yard, he began to handle his tools, and to split wood therewith, but on a sudden his foot was catch'd in a cleft piece of board and held so fast, that he could not stir, but crying out, the Carpenter came, and perceiving his folly, with many scoffs and blows dismiss him. This comes of it, quoth the Ape, to be over conceited of one's wit, but now I find it is not so easy to be a workman as I at first imagined.

The M O R A L.

Some persons have so great an opinion of their own ingenuity, as to imagine they can soon attain to the most curious inventions; but upon trial, there appears more difficulty and danger than they could possibly foresee.

F I N I S.



