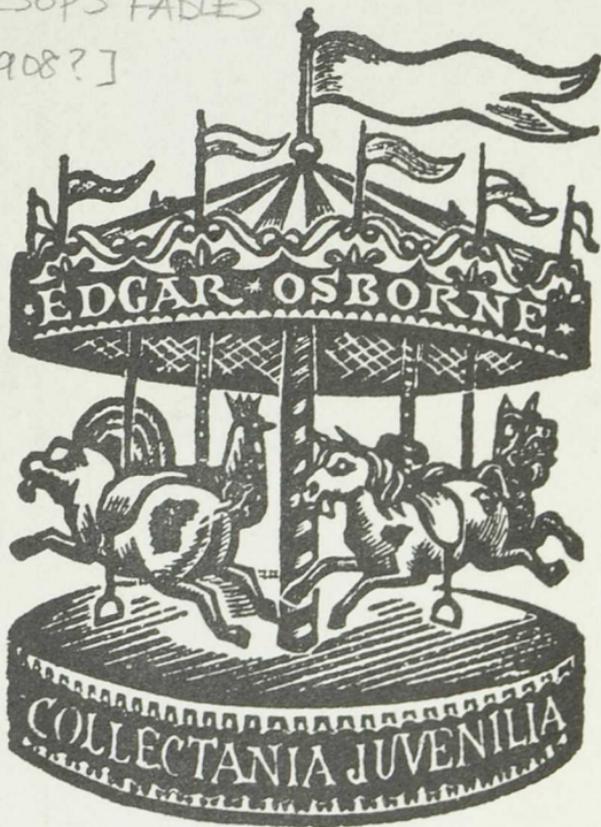


A·LITTLE
BOOK·OF
ÆSOP'S
FABLES



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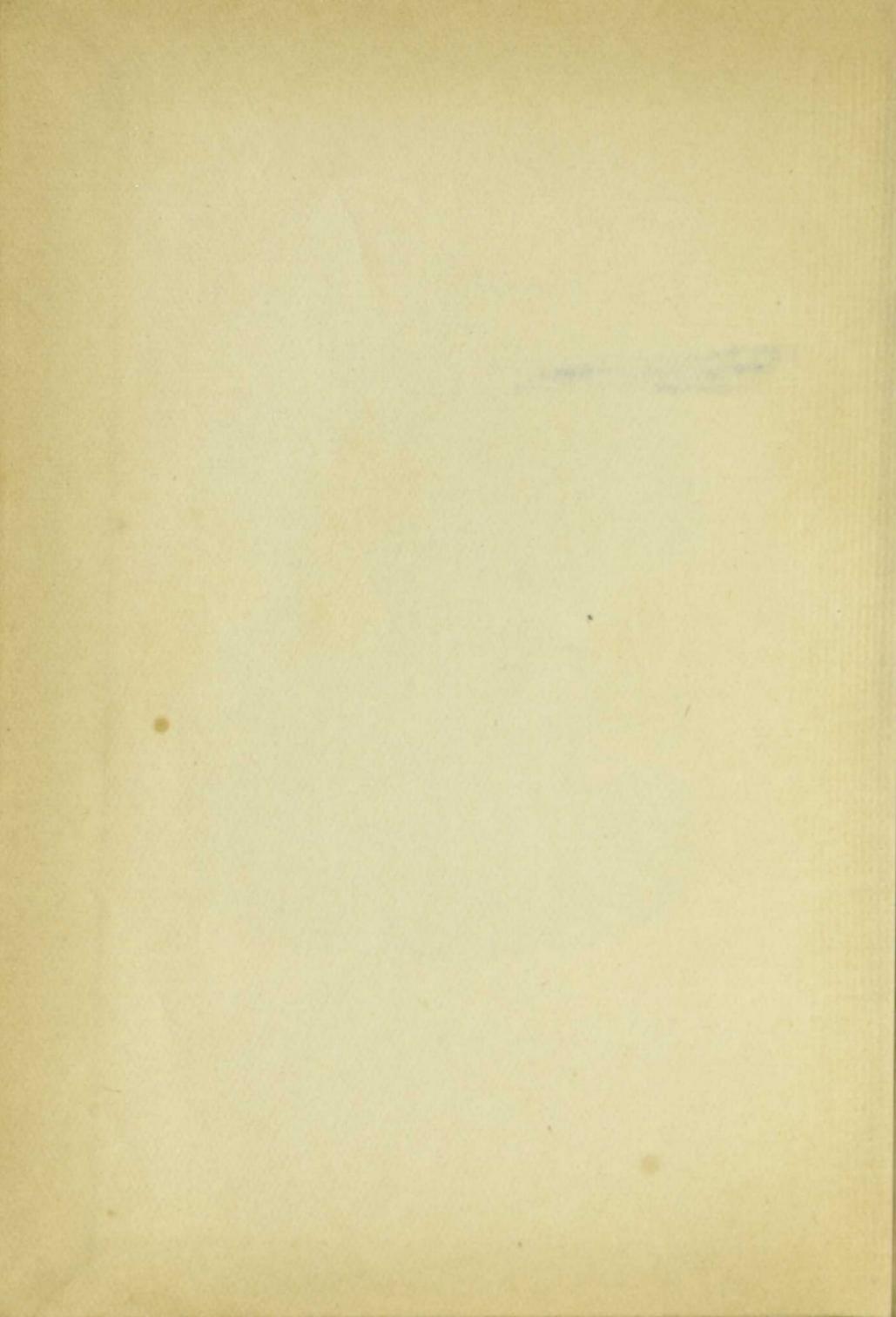
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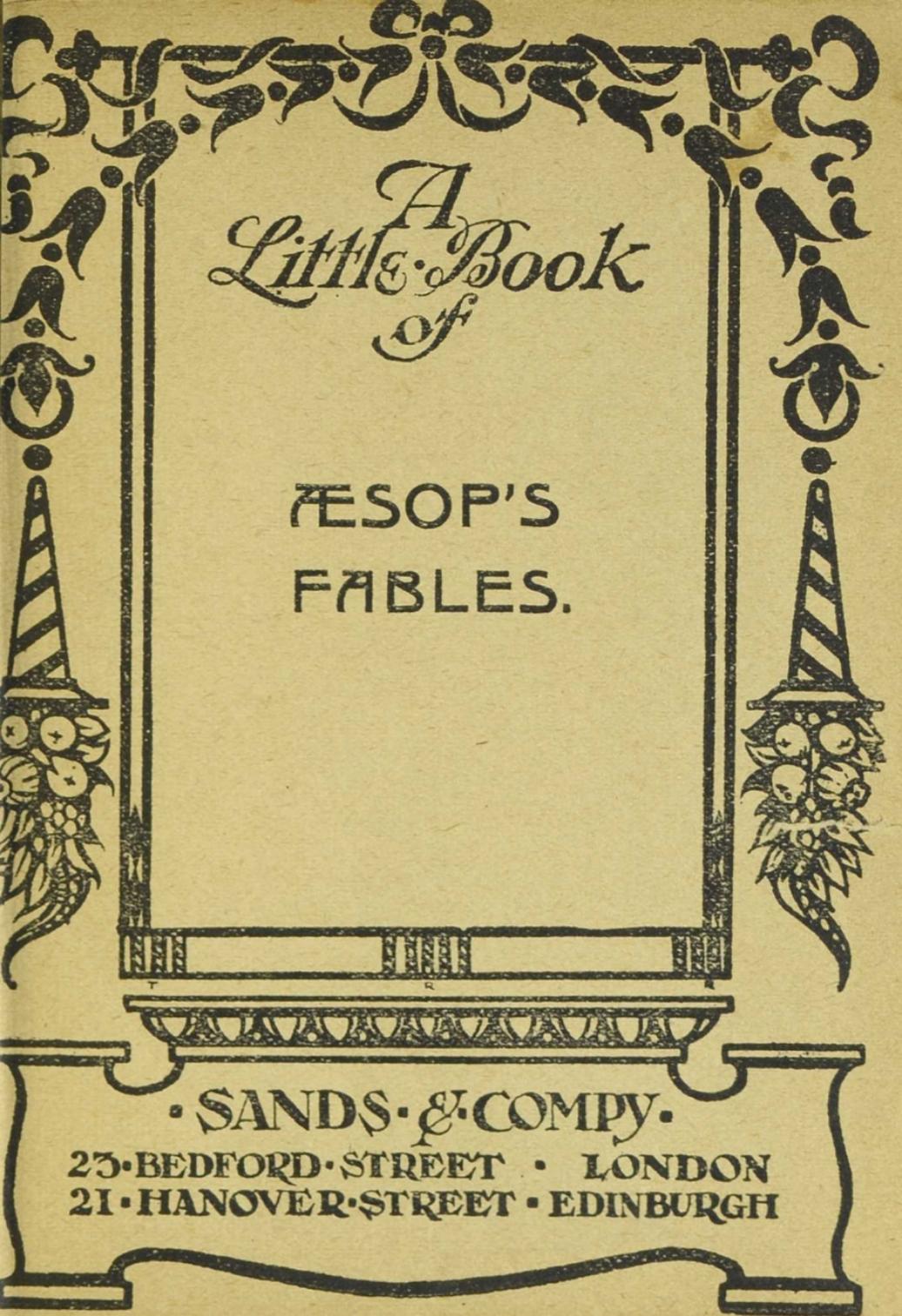
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A
LITTLE BOOK
OF

ÆSOP'S
FABLES.

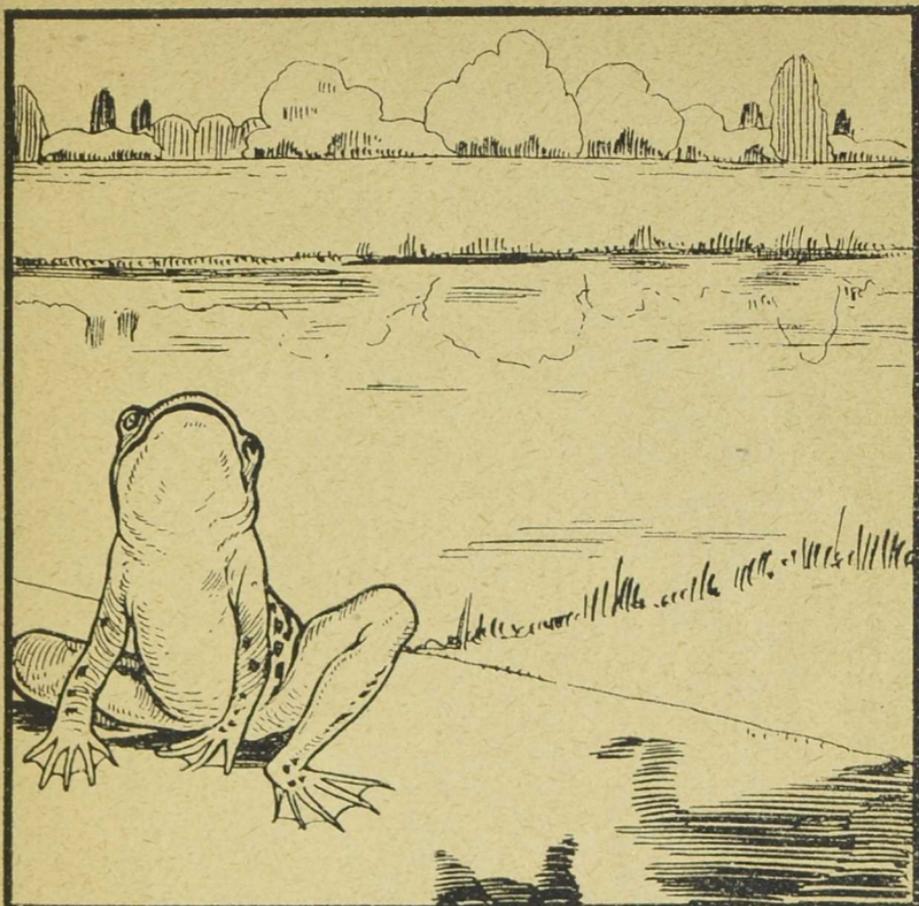


*A
Little Book
of*

ÆSOP'S
FABLES.

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A·FROG·LEAPING·OUT·OF
THE·LAKE· · · ·MADE
PROCLAMATION·

TOM·R·RIGBY·

THE LARK AND HER YOUNG ONES.

A LARK, who had Young Ones in a field of corn which was almost ripe, was under some fear lest the reapers should come to reap it before her young brood were fledged, and able to remove from the place; wherefore, upon flying abroad to look for food, she left this charge with them—that they should take notice what they heard talked of in her absence, and tell her of it when she came back again. When she was gone, they heard the owner of the corn call to his son—“Well,” says he, “I think this corn is ripe enough; I would have you go early to-morrow, and desire our friends and neighbours to come and help us to reap it.” When the old Lark came home, the Young Ones fell a quivering and chirping round her, and told her what had happened, begging her to remove them as fast as she could. The mother bid them be easy; “for,” says she, “if the owner depends upon friends and neighbours, I am pretty sure the corn will not be reaped to-

THE LARK AND HER YOUNG ONES—
continued.

morrow." Next day she went out again, upon the same occasion, and left the same orders with them as before. The owner came, and stayed, expecting those he had sent to; but the sun grew hot, and nothing was done, for not a soul came to help him. "Then," says he to his son, "I perceive these friends of ours are not to be depended upon; so that you must even go to your uncles and cousins, and tell them, I desire they would be here betimes to-morrow morning to help us to reap." Well, this the Young Ones, in a great fright, reported also to their mother. "If that be all," says she, "do not be frightened, children, for kindred and relations do not use to be so very forward to serve one another; but take particular notice what you hear said the next time, and be sure you let me know it." She went abroad the next day, as usual; and the owner, finding his relations as slack as the rest of his neighbours, said to his son, "Harkye, George, do you get a couple of good sickles ready against to-morrow morning and we will even reap the corn ourselves." When the Young Ones told their mother this, "Then," says she, "we must be gone

THE LARK AND HER YOUNG ONES—

continued.

indeed ; for when a man undertakes to do his business himself, it is not so likely that he will be disappointed." So she removed her Young Ones immediately, and the corn was reaped the next day by the good man and his son.



WE · WILL · EVEN · REAP ·
THE · CORN · OURSELVES ·

TOM · R · RIGBY ·

THE FOX IN THE WELL.

A Fox, having fallen into a well, made a shift, by sticking his claws into the sides, to keep his head above water. Soon after, a Wolf came and peeped over the brink ; to whom the Cox applied himself very earnestly for assistance ; entreating that he would help him to a rope, or something of that kind, which might favour his escape. The Wolf, moved with compassion at his misfortune, could not forbear expressing his concern : “ Ah ! poor Reynard,” says he, “ I am sorry for you with all my heart ; how could you possibly come into this melancholy condition ? ” — “ Nay, pr’ythee, friend,” replies the Fox, “ if you wish me well, do not stand pitying of me, but lend me some succour as fast as you can : for pity is but cold comfort when one is up to the chin in water, and within a hair’s breadth of starving or drowning.”



A·WOLF·CAME·AND·PEEPED·
OVER·THE·BRINK·

TOM·A·RICE·BY·

THE WOLVES AND THE SHEEP.

THE Wolves and the Sheep had been a long time in a state of war together. At last a cessation of arms was proposed, in order to a treaty of peace, and hostages were to be delivered on both sides for security. The Wolves proposed that the Sheep should give up their dogs, on the one side, and that they would deliver up their young ones, on the other. This proposal was agreed to; but no sooner executed, than the young Wolves began to howl for want of their dams. The old ones took this opportunity to cry out, the treaty was broke; and so falling upon the Sheep, who were destitute of their faithful guardians the dogs, they worried and devoured them without control.



SO · FALLING ·
UPON · THE · SHEEP ·
THEY · WORRIED ·
AND · DEVoured ·
THEM · WITHOUT ·
CONTROL ·

TOM · R · DIGAY

THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.

A WOLF, clothing himself in the skin of a Sheep, and getting in among the flock, by this means took the opportunity to devour many of them. At last the shepherd discovered him, and cunningly fastened a rope about his neck, tied him up to a tree which stood hard by. Some other shepherds happening to pass that way, and observing what he was about, drew near and expressed their admiration at it. "What," says one of them, "brother, do you make hanging of Sheep?"—"No," replies the other, "but I make hanging of a Wolf whenever I catch him, though in the habit and garb of a Sheep." Then he shewed them their mistake, and they applauded the justice of the execution.

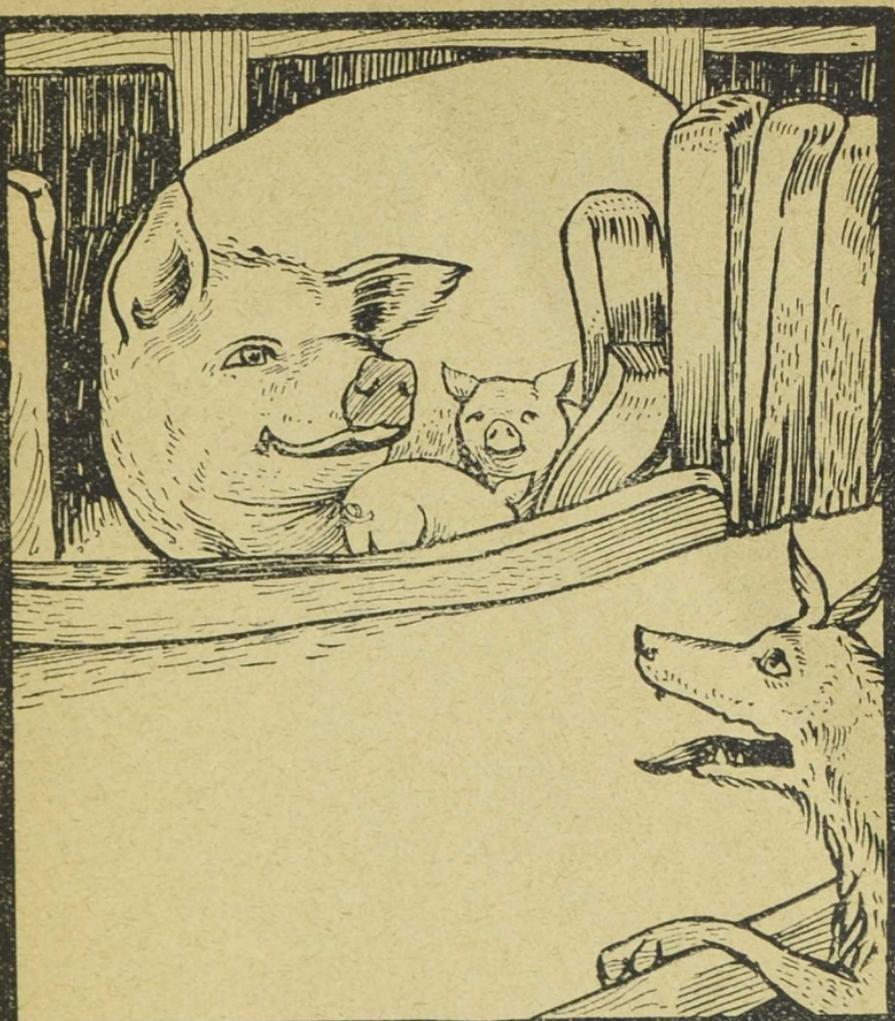


TIED·HIM·UP·TO·A·TREE
WHICH·STOOD·HARD·BY

W. H. B. CO. N. Y.

THE SOW AND THE WOLF.

A Sow had just farrowed, and lay in the sty with her whole litter of pigs about her. A Wolf, who longed for one of them, but knew not how to come at it, endeavoured to insinuate himself into the Sow's good opinion; and, accordingly, coming up to her—"How does the good woman in the straw do?" says he. "Can I be of any service to you, Mrs. Sow, in relation to your little family here? If you have a mind to go abroad, and air yourself a little, or so, you may depend upon it, I will take as much care of your pigs as you could do yourself."—"Your humble servant," says the Sow; "I thoroughly understand your meaning; and, to let you know I do, I must be so free as to tell you I had rather have your room than your company; and, therefore, if you would act like a Wolf of honour, and oblige me, I beg I may never see your face again."



SAYS THE SOW : " I
THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND

TOM R. RIGBY

THE WOLF, THE LAMB, AND THE GOAT.

As a Lamb was following a Goat, up comes a Wolf wheedling to get him aside to make a breakfast of him: "You're mistaken," says the Wolf, "this is none of your mother; she is yonder," pointing to a flock of sheep at a distance. "Well," says the Lamb, "but my mother has placed me here for my security; and you would fain get me into a corner to worry me. Prithee which of the two am I to trust now."



AS • A • LAMB • WAS • FOLLOWING
A • GOAT , UP • COMES
A • WOLF •

THE COUNTRY MOUSE AND THE CITY MOUSE.

AN honest, plain, sensible Country Mouse is said to have entertained at his hole one day a fine Mouse of the Town. Having formerly been playfellows together, they were old acquaintance, which served as an apology for the visit. However, as master of the house, he thought himself obliged to do the honours of it, in all respects, and to make as great a stranger of his guest as he possibly could. In order to this, he set before him a reserve of delicate grey peas and bacon, a dish of fine oatmeal, some parings of new cheese, and, to crown all with a dessert, a remnant of a charming mellow apple. In good manners, he forbore to eat any himself, lest the stranger should not have enough; but, that he might seem to bear the other company, sat and nibbled a piece of a wheaten straw very busily. At last, says the spark of the town, "Old crony, give me leave to be a little free with you; how can you bear to live in this nasty, dirty, melancholy hole here, with nothing but woods, and meadows, and mountains, and rivulets about you? Do

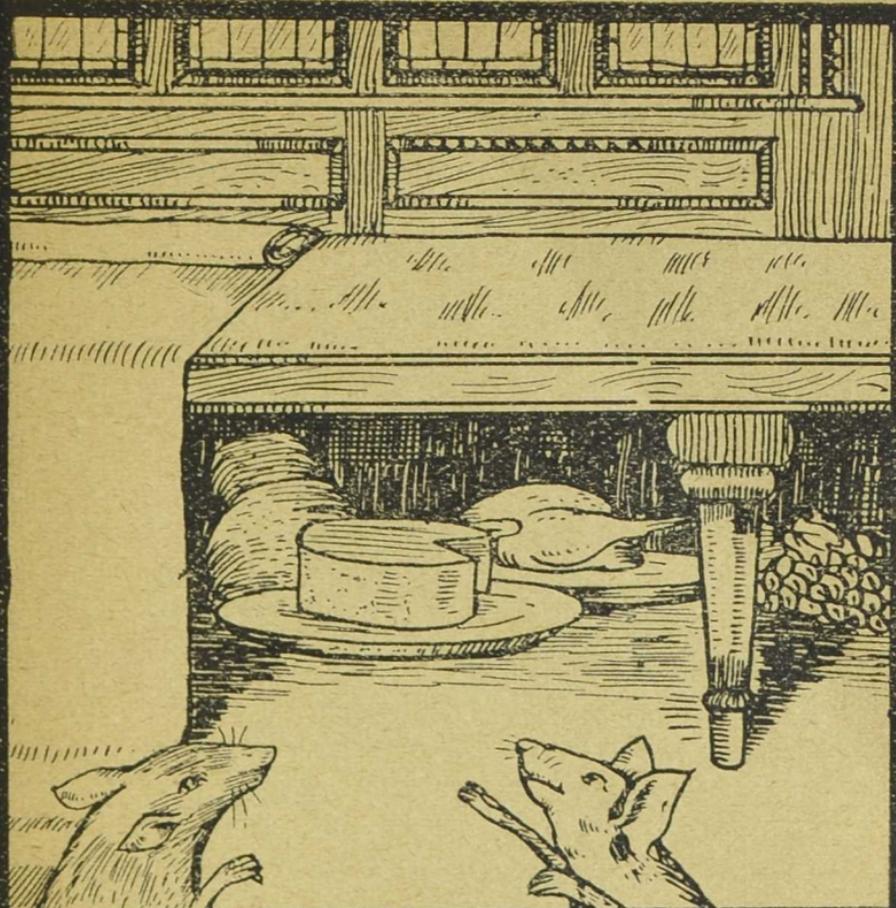
THE COUNTRY MOUSE AND CITY MOUSE—

continued.

not you prefer the conversation of the world to the chirping of birds, and the splendour of a court to the rude aspect of an uncultivated desert? Come, take my word for it, you will find it a change for the better. Never stand considering, but away this moment. Remember, we are not immortal, and therefore have no time to lose. Make sure of to-day, and spend it as agreeably as you can; you know not what may happen to-morrow." In short, these and such-like arguments prevailed, and his Country Acquaintance was resolved to go to town that night. So they both set out upon their journey together, proposing to sneak in after the close of the evening. They did so; and, about midnight, made their entry into a certain great house, where there had been an extraordinary entertainment the day before, and several tit-bits, which some of the servants had purloined, were hid under the seat of a window. The Country Guest was immediately placed in the midst of a rich Persian carpet: and now it was the Courtier's turn to entertain; who indeed, acquitted himself in that capacity with the utmost readiness and address,

THE COUNTRY MOUSE AND CITY MOUSE—
continued.

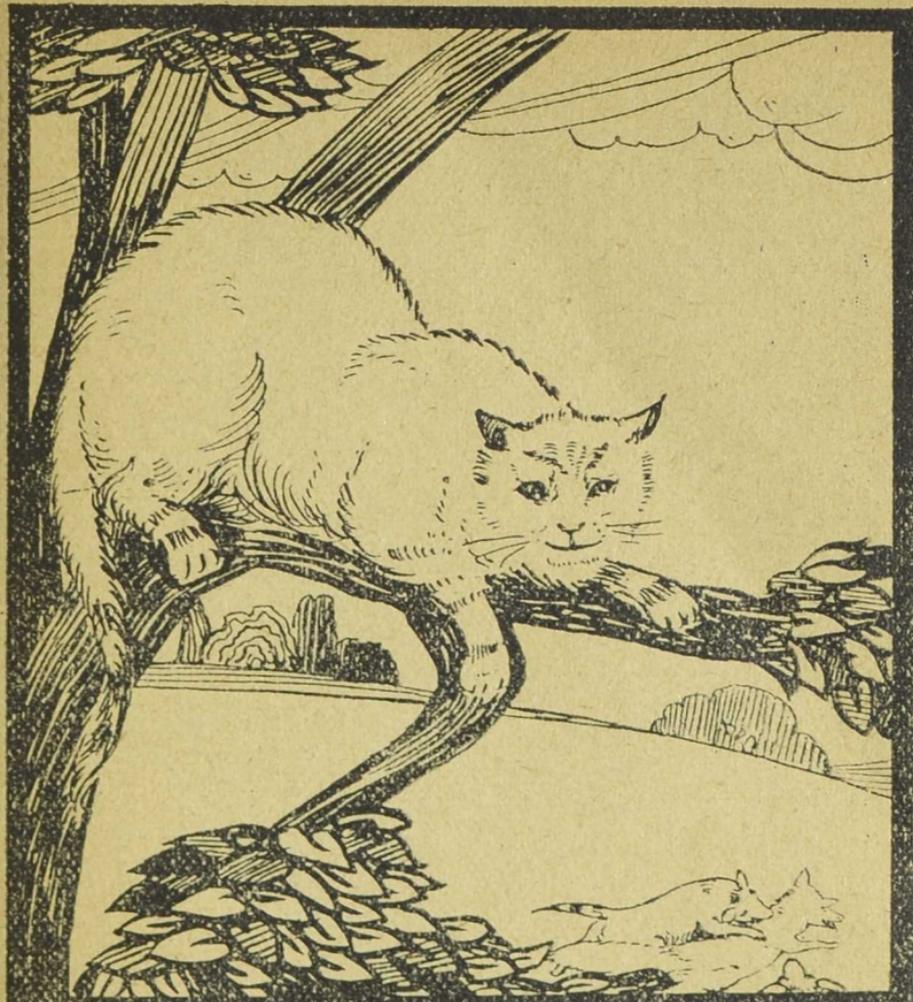
changing the courses as elegantly, and tasting everything first as judiciously, as any clerk of a kitchen. The other sat and enjoyed himself like a delighted epicure, tickled to the last degree with this new turn of his affairs; when, on a sudden, a noise of somebody opening the door made them start from their seats, and scuttle in confusion, about the dining-room. Our Country Friend, in particular, was ready to die with fear at the barking of a huge mastiff or two, which opened their throats just about the same time, and made the whole house echo. At last, recovering himself,—“Well,” says he, “if this be your town life, much good may you do with it: give me my poor quiet hole again, with my homely, but comfortable, grey peas.”



SEVERAL TIT-BITS WERE
HID UNDER THE SEAT

THE CAT AND THE FOX.

As the Cat and the Fox were talking politics together, on a time, in the middle of a forest, Reynard said "Let things turn out ever so bad, he did not care, for he had a thousand tricks for them yet, before they should hurt him."—"But pray," says he, "Mrs. Puss, suppose there should be an invasion, what course do you design to take?"—"Nay," says the Cat, "I have but one shift for it, and if that won't do, I am undone."—"I am sorry for you," replies Reynard, "with all my heart, and would gladly furnish you with one or two of mine, but indeed, neighbour, as times go, it is not good to trust; we must even be every one for himself, as the saying is, and so your humble servant." These words were scarce out of his mouth, when they were alarmed with a pack of hounds, that came upon them full cry. The Cat, by the help of her single shift, ran up a tree, and sat securely among the top branches; from whence she beheld Reynard, who had not been able to get out of sight, overtaken, with his thousand tricks, and torn in as many pieces by the dogs which had surrounded him.

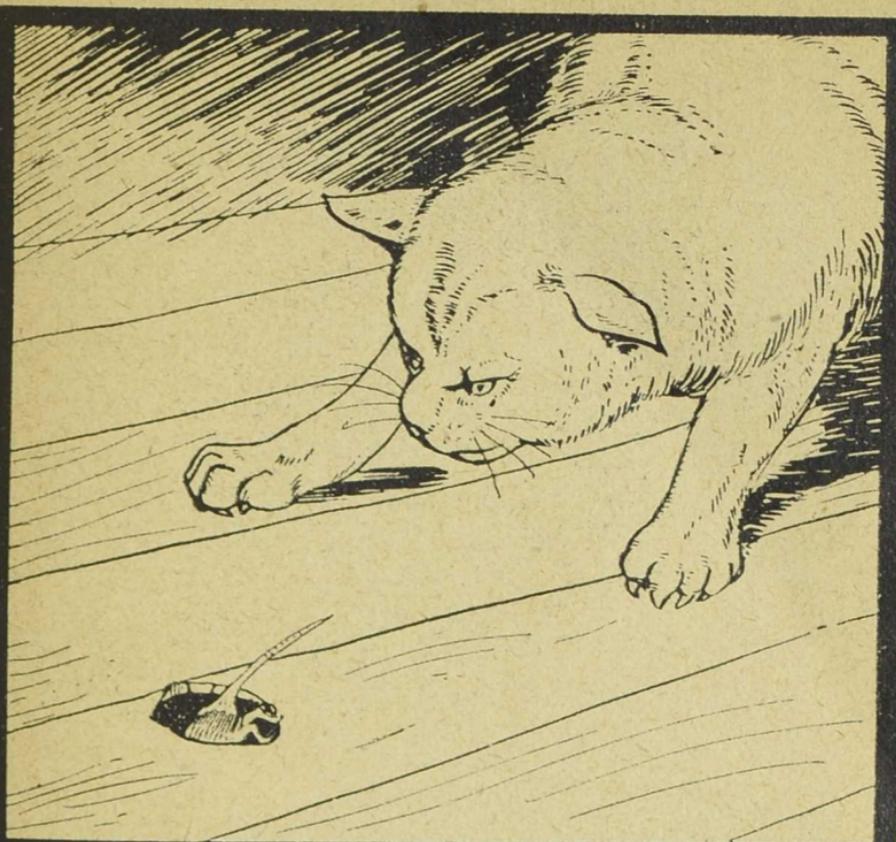


SAT • SECURELY • AMONG
THE • TOP • BRANCHES

TOM R. RIGBY

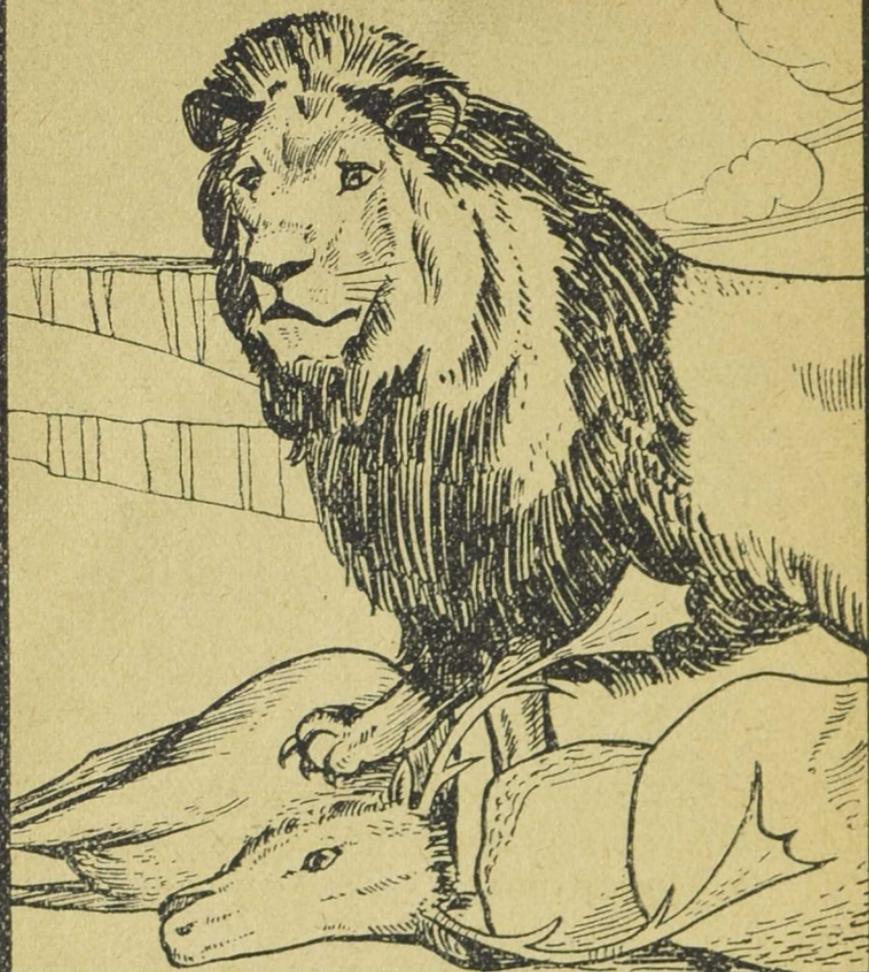
THE CAT AND THE MICE.

A CERTAIN house was much infested with Mice; but at last they got a Cat, who caught and eat every day some of them. The Mice, finding their numbers grow thin, consulted what was best to be done for the preservation of the public from the jaws of the devouring Cat. They debated and came to this resolution, That no one should go down below the upper shelf. The Cat, observing the mice no longer came down as usual, hungry and disappointed of her prey, had recourse to this stratagem: she hung by her hinder legs on a peg which stuck in the wall, and made as if she had been dead, hoping by this lure to entice the Mice to come down. She had not been in this posture long, before a cunning old Mouse peeped over the edge of the shelf, and spoke thus:—
“Aha, my good friend, are you there! there you may be! I would not trust myself with you, though your skin were stuffed with straw.”



**A • CAT • WHO • CATCHED •
AND • EAT • EVERY • DAY •
SOME • OF • THEM •**

TOM • R. RIGBY



TOOK • A • VERY • FINE
LARGE • FAT • DEER

TOM • R • RIGBY

THE LION AND OTHER BEASTS.

THE Lion and several other Beasts entered into an alliance offensive and defensive, and were to live very sociably together in the forest. One day, having made a sort of an excursion by way of hunting, they took a very fine, large, fat deer, which was divided into four parts; there happening to be then present his majesty the Lion, and only three others. After the division was made, and the parts were set out, his majesty advancing forward some steps, and pointing to one of the shares, was pleased to declare himself after the following manner: "This I seize and take possession of as my right, which devolves to me, as I am descended by a true, lineal, hereditary succession from the royal family of Lion: that (pointing to the second) I claim by, I think, no unreasonable demand; considering that all the engagements you have with the enemy turn chiefly upon my courage and conduct; and you very well know, that wars are too expensive to be

carried on without proper supplies. Then (nodding his head towards the third) that I shall take by virtue of my prerogative; to which, I make no question, but so dutiful and loyal a people will pay all the deference and regard that I can desire. Now, as for the remaining part, the necessity of our present affairs is so very urgent, our stock so low, and our credit so impaired and weakened, that I must insist, upon your granting that, without any hesitation or demur; and hereof fail not at your peril.”

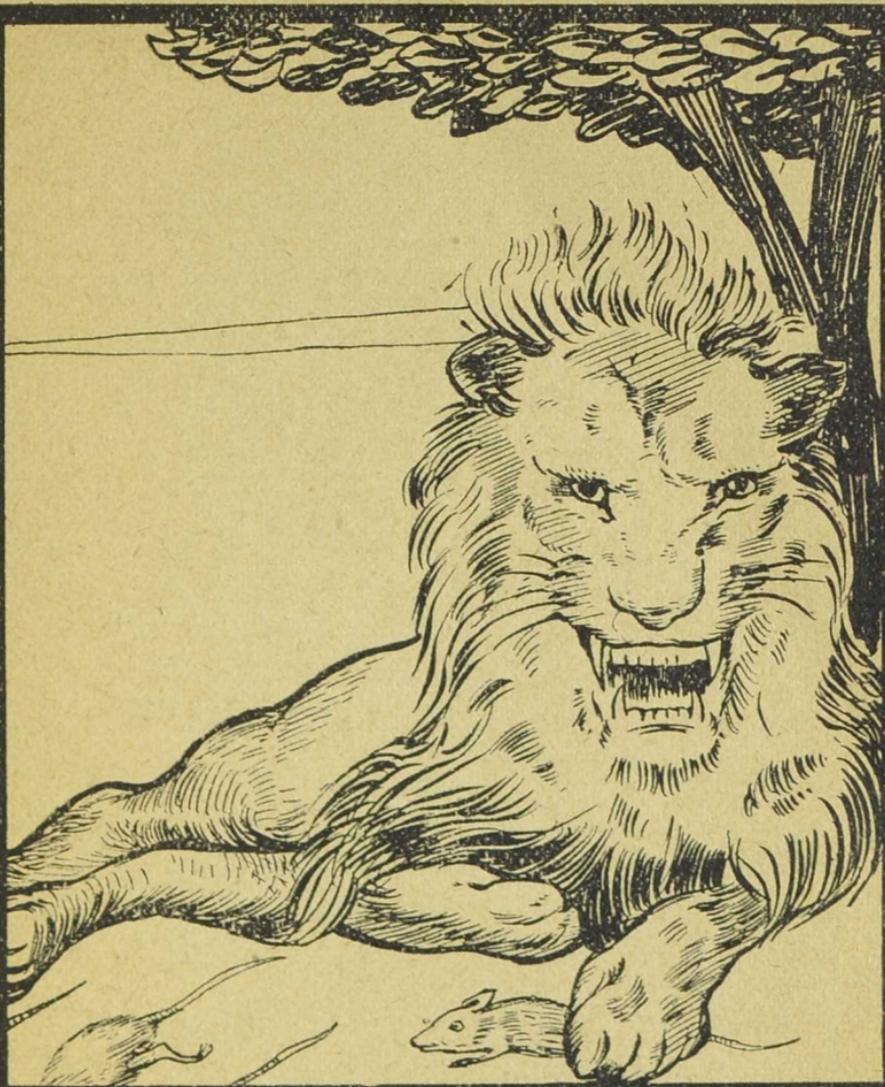
THE LION AND THE MOUSE.

A LION faint with heat, and weary with hunting, was laid down to take his repose under the spreading boughs of a thick, shady oak. It happened that, while he slept, a company of scrambling mice ran over his back, and waked him ; upon which, starting up, he clapped his paw upon one of them, and was just going to put it to death, when the little suppliant implored his mercy in a very moving manner, begging him not to stain his noble character with the blood of so despicable and small a beast. The Lion, considering the matter, thought proper to do as he was desired, and immediately released his little trembling prisoner. Not long after, traversing the forest in pursuit of his prey, he chanced to run into the toils of the hunters ; from whence, not able to disengage himself, he set up a most hideous and loud roar. The Mouse, hearing the voice, and knowing it to be the Lion's,

THE LION AND THE MOUSE—

continued.

immediately repaired to the place, and bid him fear nothing, for that he was his friend. Then straight he fell to work, and, with his little sharp teeth, gnawing asunder the knots and fastenings of the toils, set the royal brute at liberty.

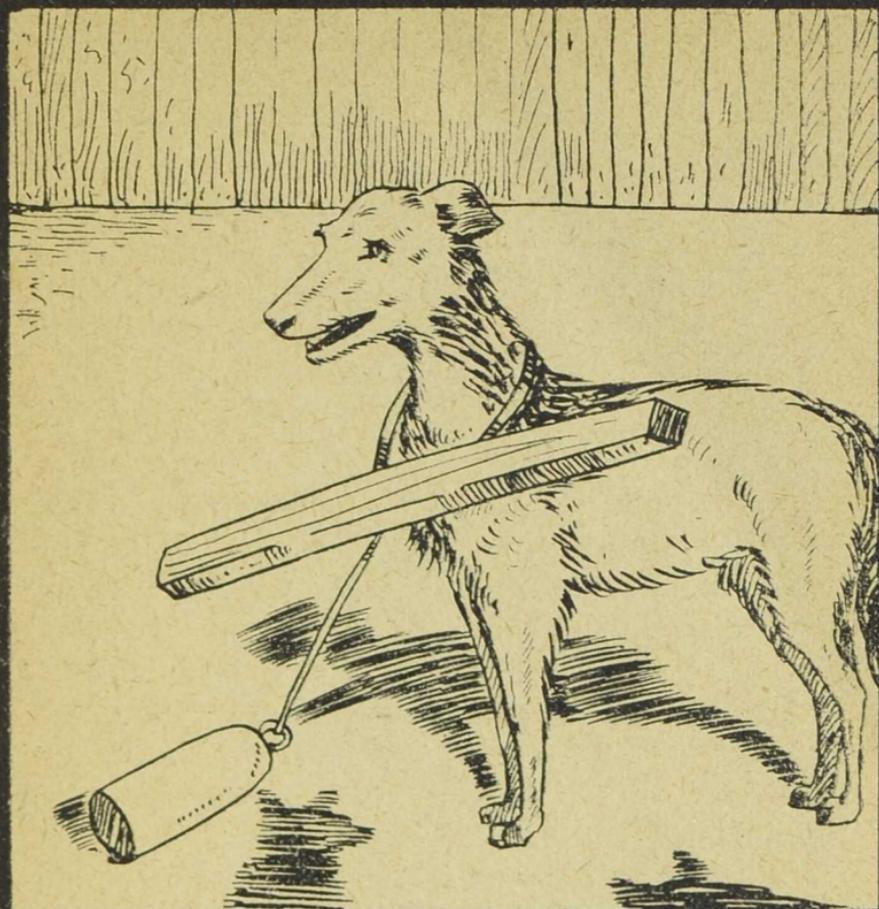


CLAPPED · HIS · PAW · UPON
ONE · OF · THEM ·

TOM R. RIGBY

THE MISCHIEVOUS DOG.

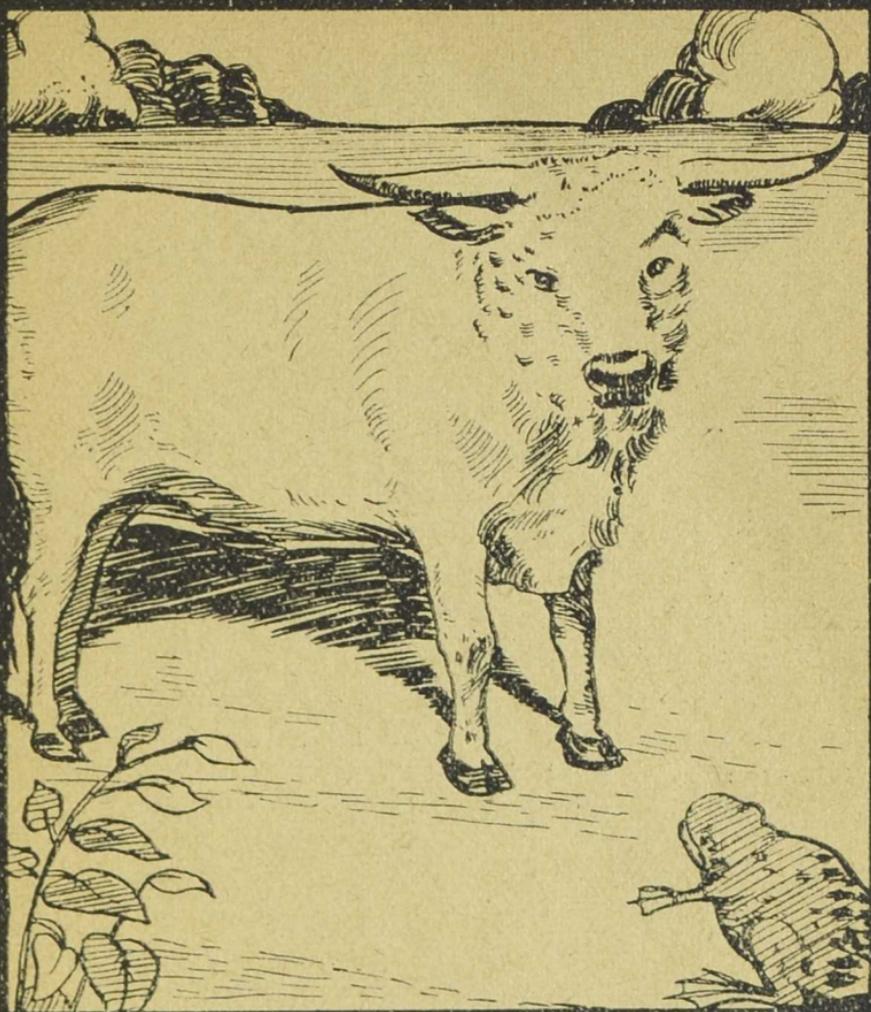
A CERTAIN man had a Dog, which was so curst and mischievous, that he was forced to fasten a heavy clog about his neck, to keep him from running at and worrying people. This the vain cur took for a badge of honourable distinction ; and grew so insolent upon it, that he looked down with an air of scorn upon the neighbouring dogs, and refused to keep them company. But a sly old poacher, who was one of the gang, assured him, that he had no reason to value himself upon the favour he wore, since it was fixed upon him rather as a mark of disgrace than of honour.



A·DOG·WHICH·WAS
SO·CURSED·AND
MISCHIEVOUS·

THE OX AND THE FROG.

AN Ox, grazing in a meadow, chanced to set his foot among a parcel of young Frogs, and trod one of them to death. The rest informed their mother, when she came home, what had happened; telling her, that the beast which did it was the hugest creature that they ever saw in their lives. "What, was it so big?" says the old Frog, swelling and blowing up her speckled belly to a great degree. "Oh! bigger by a vast deal," say they. "And so big?" says she, straining herself yet more. "Indeed, mamma," say they, "if you were to burst yourself, you would never be so big." She strove yet again, and burst herself indeed



THE · OX · & · THE · FROG

THE FOX AND THE LION.

THE first time the Fox saw the Lion, he fell down at his feet, and was ready to die with fear. The second time, he took courage and could even bear to look upon him. The third time he had the impudence to come up to him, to salute him, and to enter into familiar conversation with him.



COULD · EVEN · BEAR
TO · LOOK · UPON · HIM

TOM · A · RUBY

THE APE AND THE FOX.

THE Ape meeting the Fox one day, humbly requested him to give him a piece of his fine long brush tail, for a protection against the inclemency of the weather ; “ For,” says he, “ Reynard, you have already more than you have occasion for, and a great part of it even drags along in the dirt.” The Fox answered, “ That as to his having too much, that was more than he knew ; but be it as it would, he had rather sweep the ground with his tail as long as he lived, than deprive himself of the least bit to make up the Ape’s deficiencies.”

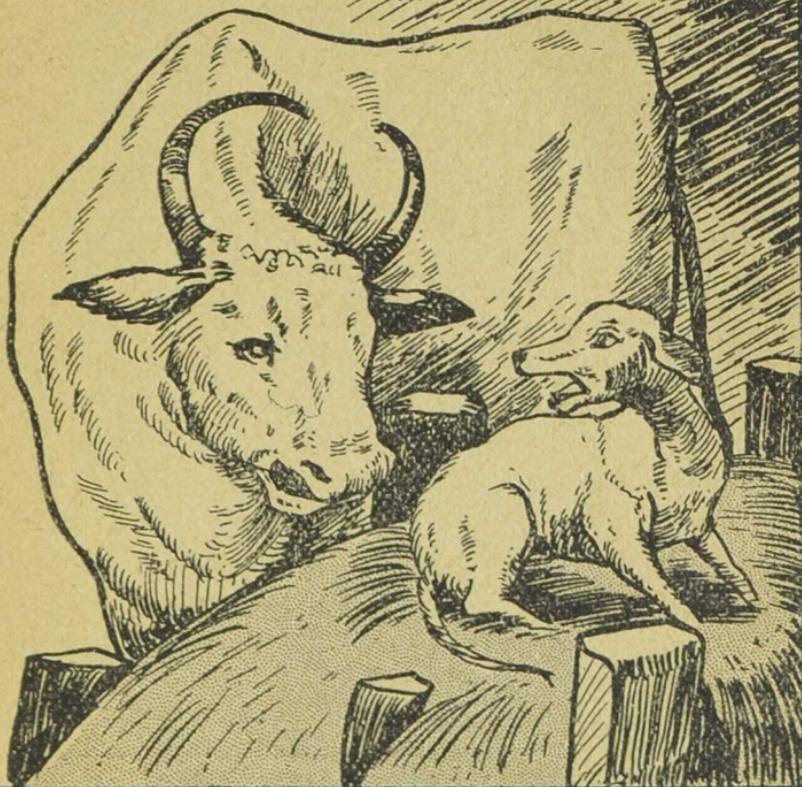


TO GIVE HIM A PIECE
OF HIS FINE LONG TAIL

STORY OF THE
FOX AND THE RABBIT

THE DOG IN THE MANGER.

A Dog was lying upon a manger full of hay. An Ox, being hungry, came near, and offered to eat of the hay ; but the envious, ill-natured cur, getting up and snarling at him, would not suffer him to touch it. Upon which the Ox, in the bitterness of his heart, said, “ A curse light on thee, for a malicious wretch, who wilt neither eat hay thyself, nor suffer others to do it.”

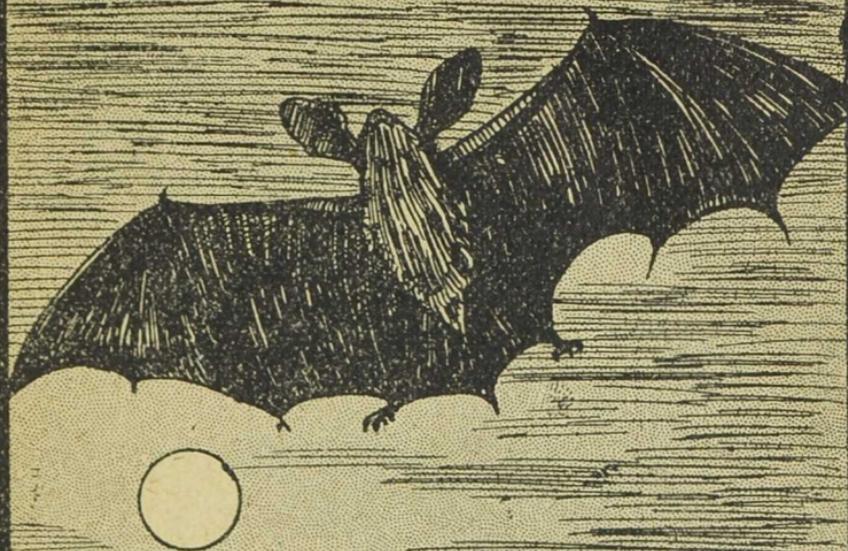


WOULD • NOT • SUFFER
HIM • TO • TOUCH • IT

DR. R. RIGBY

THE BIRDS, THE BEASTS, & THE BAT.

ONCE upon a time there commenced a fierce war between the Birds and the Beasts ; when the Bat, taking advantage of his ambiguous make, hoped, by that means, to live secure in a state of neutrality, and save his bacon. It was not long before the forces on each side met, and gave a battle ; and their animosities running very high, a bloody slaughter ensued. The Bat, at the beginning of the day, thinking the Birds most likely to carry it, lifted himself among them ; but kept fluttering at a little distance, that he might the better observe and take his measures accordingly. However, after some time spent in the action, the army of the Beasts seeming to prevail, he went entirely over to them, and endeavoured to convince them, by the affinity which he had to a mouse, that he was by nature a beast, and would always continue firm and true to their interest. His plea was admitted ; but, in the end, the advantage turning completely on the side of the Birds, under the admirable conduct and courage of their general the eagle, the Bat, to save his life, and escape the disgrace of falling into the hands of his deserted friends, betook himself to flight ; and ever since, skulking in caves and hollow trees all day, as if ashamed to shew himself, he never appears till the dusk of the evening, when all the feathered inhabitants of the air are gone to roost.



HE · NEVER · APPEARS ·
TILL · THE · DUSK

THE OLD WOMAN AND HER MAIDS.

A CERTAIN old Woman had several Maids, whom she used to call up to their work, every morning, at the crowing of the cock. The Wenches, who found it grievous to have their sweet sleep disturbed so early, combined together, and killed the cock ; thinking that, when the alarm was gone, they might enjoy themselves in their warm beds a little longer. The Old Woman grieved for the loss of her cock, and having, by some means or other, discovered the whole plot, was resolved to be even with them ; for, from that time, she obliged them to rise constantly at midnight.



FOUND · IT · GRIEVOUS ·
TO · HAVE · THEIR · SWEET ·
SLEEP · DISTURBED ·

TOM. D. RICH.



A·LION·AND·A·BEAR·FELL
TOGETHER·BY·THE·EARS·

TOM·R·RIGBY

THE LION, THE BEAR AND THE THE FOX.

A LION and a Bear fell together by the ears over the carcase of a fawn which they found in the forest, their title to him being to be decided by force of arms. The battle was severe and tough on both sides, and they held it out, tearing and worrying one another so long, that, what with wounds and fatigue, they were so faint and weary they were not able to strike another stroke. Thus, while they lay upon the ground, panting, and lolling out their tongues, a Fox chanced to pass by that way, who, perceiving how the case stood, very impudently stepped in between them, seized the booty which they had all this while been contending for, and carried it off. The two combatants, who lay and beheld all this, without having strength enough to stir and prevent it, were only

THE LION, THE BEAR, AND THE FOX—

continued.

wise enough to make this reflection : “ Behold the fruits of our strife and contention ! That villain, the Fox, bears away the prize, and we ourselves have deprived each other of the power to recover it from him.”

THE ANT AND THE FLY.

ONE day there happened some words between the Ant and the Fly about precedency, and the point was argued with great warmth and eagerness on both sides. Says the Fly, "It is well known what my pretensions are, and how justly they are grounded: there is never a sacrifice that is offered but I always taste of the entrails, even before the gods themselves. I have one of the uppermost seats at church, and frequent the altar as often as anybody; I have a free admission at court, and can never want the king's ear, for I sometimes sit upon his shoulder. There is not a maid of honour, or handsome young creature, comes in my way, but, if I like her, I settle betwixt her balmy lips. And then I eat and drink the best of everything, without having any occasion to work for my living. What is there that such country pusses as you enjoy, to be compared with a life like this?" —The Ant, who by this time had composed herself, replied with a great deal of temper, and no less severity,—“Indeed, to be a guest

at an entertainment of the gods is a very great honour, if one is invited ; but I should not care to be a disagreeable intruder anywhere. You talk of the king and the court, and the fine ladies there, with great familiarity ; but, as I have been getting in my harvest this summer, I have seen a certain person under the town walls making a hearty meal upon something that is not so proper to be mentioned. As for your frequenting the altars, you are in the right to take sanctuary where you are like to meet with the least disturbance ; but I have known people before now run to altars, and call it devotion, when they have been shut out of all good company, and had nowhere else to go. You do not work for your living, you say—true : therefore, when you have played away the summer, and winter comes, you have nothing to live upon ; and, while you are starving with cold and hunger, I have a good warm house over my head, and plenty of provisions about me.



FOR • I • SOMETIMES •
SIT • UPON • HIS • SHOULDER

W. H. & A. CO. N.Y.



THE FROGS DESIRE
A KING

TOM R. RUGBY

THE FROGS DESIRING A KING.

THE Frogs, living an easy free life everywhere among the lakes and ponds, assembled together, one day, in a very tumultuous manner, and petitioned Jupiter to let them have a King, who might inspect their morals, and make them live a little honester. Jupiter, being at that time in pretty good humour, was pleased to laugh heartily at their ridiculous request ; and, throwing a little log down into the pool, cried, "There is a King for you." The sudden splash which this made, by its fall into the water, at first terrified them so exceedingly, that they were afraid to come near it. But in a little time, seeing it lay still without moving, they ventured, by degrees, to approach it ; and at last, finding there was no danger, they leaped upon it ; and, in short, treated it as familiarly as they pleased. But, not contented with so insipid a King as this was, they sent their deputies to petition again for another sort of one ; for this they neither did nor could like. Upon that he sent them a stork, who, with-

THE FROGS DESIRING A KING—
continued.

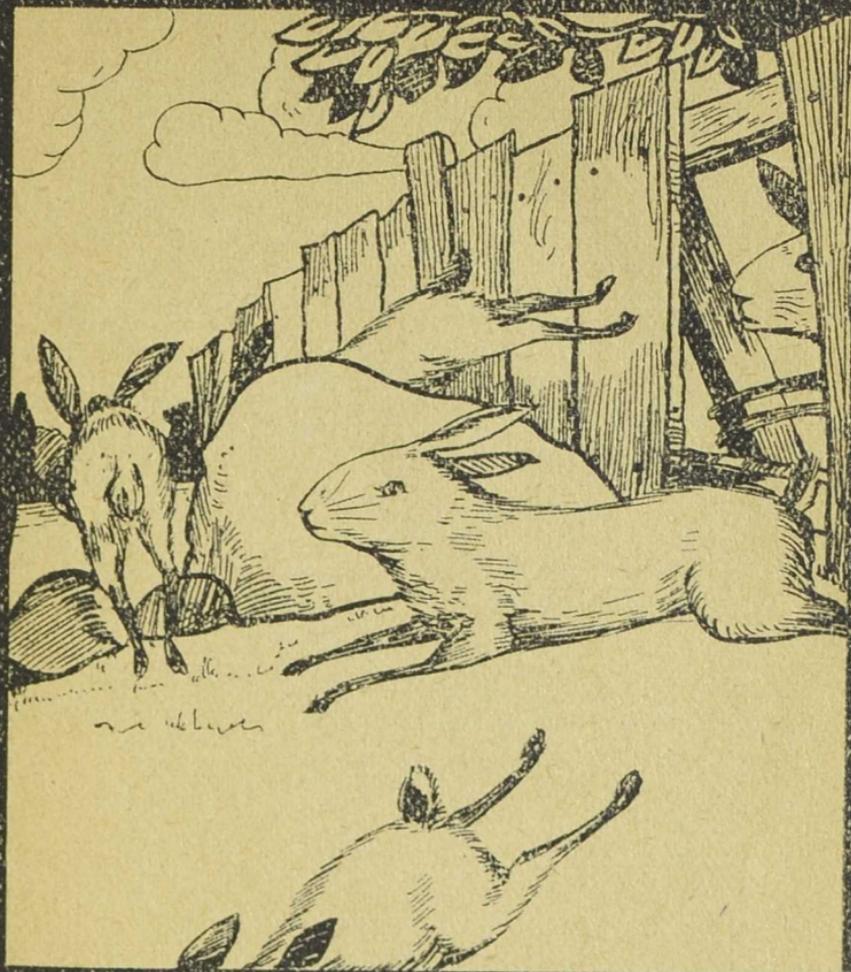
out any ceremony, fell a devouring and eating them up, one after another, as fast as he could. Then they applied themselves privately to Mercury, and got him to speak to Jupiter in their behalf, that he would be so good as to bless them again with another King, or restore them to their former state. "No," says he; "since it was their own choice, let the obstinate wretches suffer the penalty due to their folly."

THE HARES AND FROGS IN A STORM.

UPON a great storm of wind that blew among the trees and bushes, and made a rustling with the leaves, the Hares (in a certain park where there happened to be a plenty of them) were so terribly frightened that they ran like mad all over the place, resolving to seek out some retreat of more security, or to end their unhappy days by doing violence to themselves. With this resolution they found an outlet where a pale had been broken down, and, bolting forth upon an adjoining common, had not run far before their course was stopt by that of a gentle brook which glided across the way they intended to take. This was so grievous a disappointment that they were not able to bear it; and they determined rather to throw themselves headlong into the water, let what would become of it, than lead a life so full of dangers and crosses. But, upon their coming to the brink of the river, a parcel of Frogs, which were sitting there, frightened at

THE HARES AND FROGS IN A STORM—
continued.

their approach, leapt into the stream in great confusion, and dived to the very bottom for fear: which a cunning old puss observing, called to the rest and said, “Hold, have a care what ye do: here are other creatures, I perceive, which have their fears as well as us: don’t, then, let us fancy ourselves the most miserable of any upon earth; but rather, by their example, learn to bear patiently those inconveniences which our nature has thrown upon us.”



RAN · LIKE · MAD · ALL
OVER · THE · PLACE

TOM · P · RILEY

THE DOG AND THE SHEEP.

THE Dog sued the Sheep for a debt, of which the kite and the wolf were to be judges. They, without debating long upon the matter, or making any scruple for want of evidence, gave sentence for the plaintiff; who immediately tore the poor Sheep in pieces, and divided the spoil with the unjust judges.

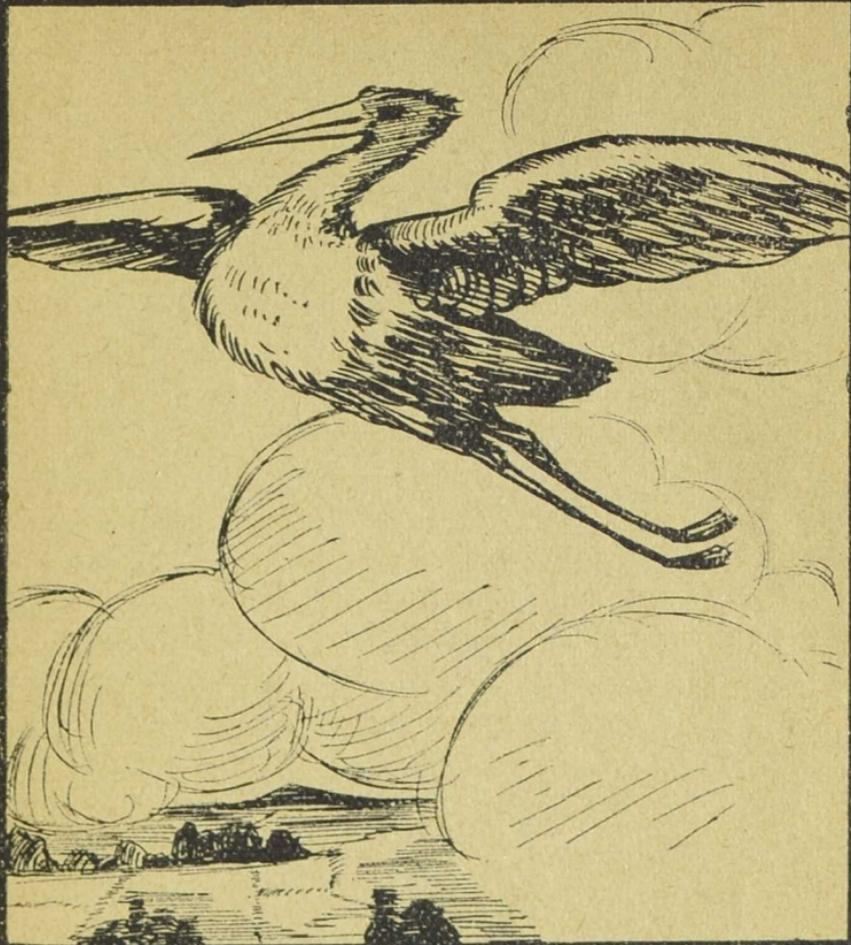


THE · DOG · SUED · THE ·
SHEEP · FOR · A · DEBT

TOM · D. · RICH

THE PEACOCK AND THE CRANE.

THE Peacock and the Crane by chance met together in the same place. The Peacock erecting his tail, displayed his gaudy plumes, and looked with contempt upon the Crane, as some mean ordinary person. The Crane, resolving to mortify his insolence, took occasion to say, that Peacocks were very fine birds indeed, if fine feathers could make them so ; but that he thought it a much nobler thing to be able to rise above the clouds, than to strut about upon the ground, and be gazed at by children.

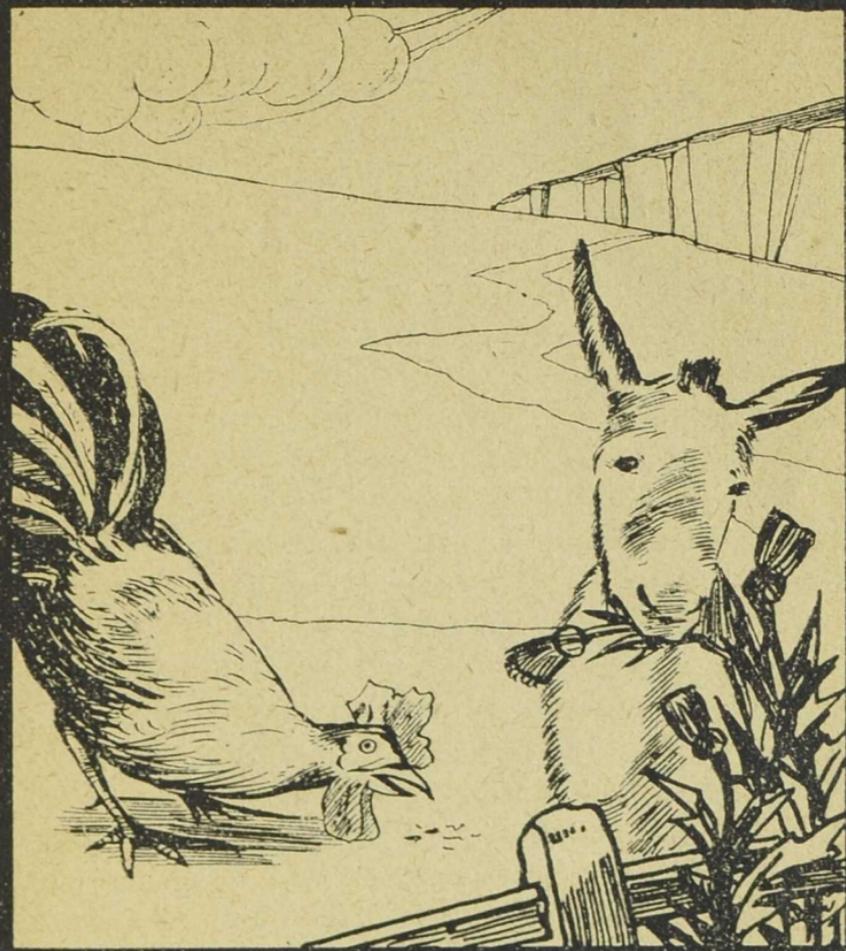


TO • BE • ABLE • TO • RISE
ABOVE • THE • CLOUDS

TOM R. RIGBY

THE ASS, THE LION, AND THE COCK.

AN Ass and a Cock happened to be feeding together in the same place, when on a sudden they spied a Lion approaching them. This beast is reported, above all things, to have an aversion, or rather antipathy, to the crowing of a Cock ; so that he no sooner heard the voice of that bird, but he betook him to his heels, and ran away as fast as ever he could. The Ass fancying he fled for fear of him, in the bravery of his heart pursued him, and followed him so far, that they were quite out of the hearing of the Cock ; which the Lion no sooner perceived, but he turned about and seized the Ass ; and just as he was ready to tear him to pieces the sluggish creature is said to have expressed himself thus :—“ Alas ! fool that I was, knowing the cowardice of my own nature, thus by an affected courage to throw myself into the jaws of death, when I might have remained secure and unmolested !”



AN·ASS·AND·A·COCK·
HAPPENED·TO·BE·FEEDING

THE JACKDAW AND PEACOCKS.

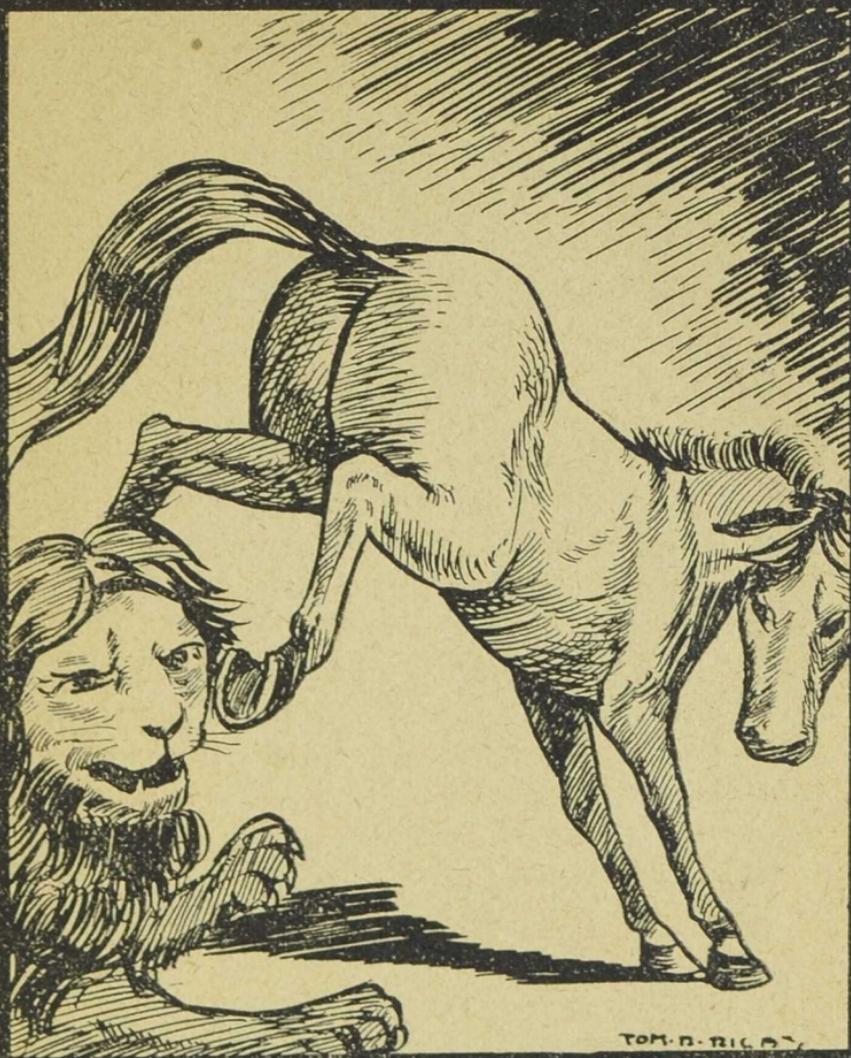
A CERTAIN Jackdaw was so proud and ambitious that, not contented to live within his own sphere, he picked up the feathers which fell from the Peacocks, stuck them in among his own, and very confidently introduced himself into an assembly of those beautiful birds. They soon found him out, stripped him of his borrowed plumes, and falling upon him with their sharp bills, punished him as his presumption deserved. Upon this, full of grief and affliction, he returned to his old companions, and would have flocked with them again; but they, knowing his late life and conversation, industriously avoided him, and refused to admit him into their company: and one of them, at the same time, gave him this serious reproof:—"If, friend, you could have been contented with our station, and had not disdained the rank in which Nature had placed you, you had not been used so scurvily by those upon whom you intruded yourself, nor suffered the notorious slight which now we think ourselves obliged to put upon you."



THEY·SOON·FOUND·HIM·OUT

THE HORSE AND THE LION.

A LION seeing a fine plump Nag, had a great mind to eat a bit of him, but knew not which way to get him into his power. At last he bethought himself of this contrivance: he gave out that he was a physician, who, having gained experience by his travels into foreign countries, had made himself capable of curing any sort of malady or distemper incident to any kind of beast, hoping by this stratagem to get an easier admittance among cattle, and find an opportunity to execute his design. The horse, who smoked the matter, was resolved to be even with him; and so, humouring the thing as if he suspected nothing, he prayed the Lion to give him his advice in relation to a thorn he had got in his foot, which had quite lamed him, and gave him great pain and uneasiness. The Lion readily agreed, and desired he might see the foot. Upon which the horse lifted up one of his hind legs, and, while the Lion pretended to be poring earnestly upon his hoof, gave him such a kick in the face as quite stunned him, and left him sprawling upon the ground. In the meantime the Horse trotted away, neighing and laughing merrily at the success of the trick, by which he had defeated the purpose of one who intended to have tricked him out of his life

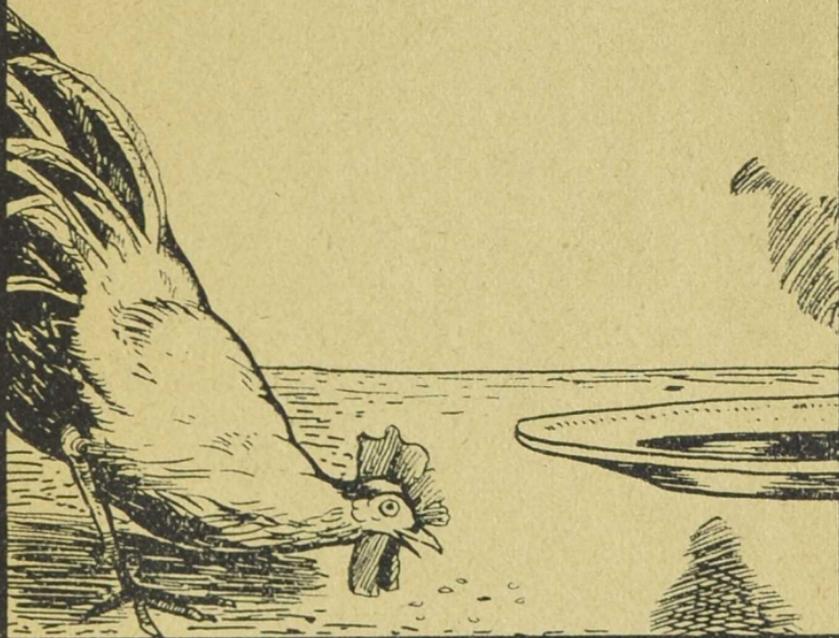
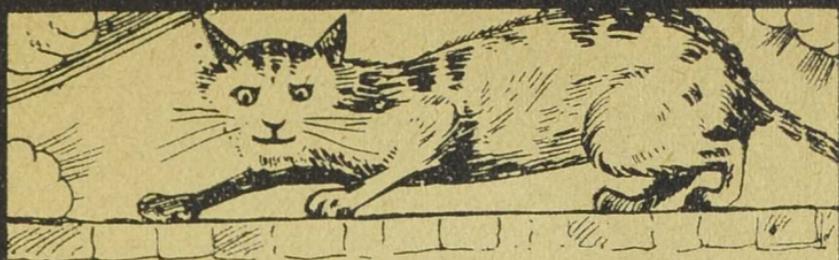


TOM. B. RICE

GAVE · HIM · SUCH · A · KICK

THE CAT AND THE COCK.

THE Cat having a mind to make a meal of the Cock, seized him one morning by surprise, and asked him what he could say for himself, why slaughter should not pass upon him? The Cock replied, that he was serviceable to mankind by crowing in the morning, and calling them up to their daily labour. "That is true," says the Cat, "and is the very objection that I have against you; for you make such a shrill, impertinent noise, that people cannot sleep for you." At which word she gave him a pinch, and so made an end both of the Cock and of the story.



HAVING A MIND TO MAKE
A MEAL OF THE COCK

TOM R. RILBY

THE SHEPHERD'S BOY.

A CERTAIN Shepherd's Boy kept his sheep upon a common, and in sport and wantonness would often cry out, "The Wolf! the Wolf!" By this means he several times drew the husbandmen in an adjoining field from their work; who, finding themselves deluded, resolved for the future to take no notice of his alarm. Soon after the Wolf came indeed. The Boy cried out in earnest; but no heed being given to his cries, the sheep were devoured by the Wolf.



THE SHEPHERD'S BOY

BY R. RIGBY

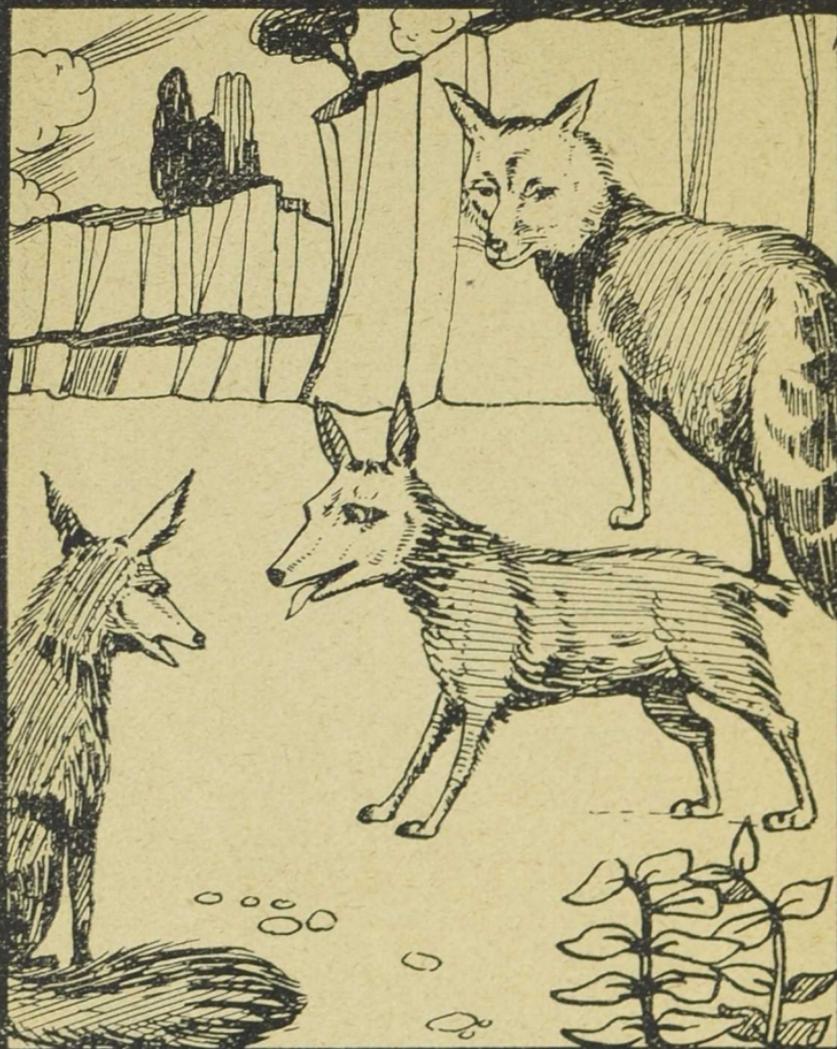
THE FOX AND THE GOAT.

A Fox, having tumbled by chance into a well, had been casting about a long while, to no purpose, how he should get out again ; when at last a Goat came to the place, and, wanting to drink, asked Reynard whether the water was good. "Good," says he : "aye, so sweet that I am afraid I have surfeited myself, I have drank so abundantly." The Goat upon this, with out any more ado, leaped in ; and the Fox, taking the advantage of his horns by the assistance of them as nimbly leaped out, leaving the poor Goat at the bottom of the well, to shift for himself.



THE FOX AND GOAT

TOM R. RIGBY



THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL

BY M. R. RAGS

THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL.

A Fox, being caught in a steel trap by his tail, was glad to compound for his escape with the loss of it ; but, upon coming abroad into the world, began to be so sensible of the disgrace such a defect would bring upon him, that he almost wished he had died rather than left it behind him. However, to make the best of a bad matter, he formed a project in his head to call an assembly of the rest of the foxes, and propose it for their imitation, as a fashion which would be very agreeable and becoming. He did so, and made a long harangue upon the unprofitableness of tails in general, and endeavoured chiefly to show the awkwardness and inconvenience of a fox's tail in particular ; adding that it would be both more graceful and more expeditious to be altogether without them ; and that, for his part, what he had only imagined and conjectured before, he now found by experience ; for that he never enjoyed himself so well, and found himself so easy, as he had done since

THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL—*continued.*

he cut off his tail. He said no more, but looked about with a brisk air, to see what proselytes he had gained; when a sly old thief in the company who understood traps, answered him, with a leer,—“I believe you may have found a conveniency in parting with your tail, and when we are in the same circumstances perhaps we may do so too.”

THE ASS AND THE LITTLE DOG

THE Ass, observing how great a favourite the little Dog was with his master, how much caressed and fondled, and fed with good bits at every meal,—and for no other reason, as he could perceive, but skipping and frisking about, wagging his tail, and leaping up into his master's lap,—he was resolved to imitate the same, and see whether such a behaviour would not procure him the same favours. Accordingly, the master was no sooner come home from walking about his fields and gardens, and was seated in his easy-chair, but the Ass, who observed him, came gambolling and braying towards him, in a very awkward manner. The master could not help laughing aloud at the odd sight. But his jest was soon turned into earnest when he felt the rough salute of the Ass's forefeet, who, raising himself upon his hinder legs, pawed against his breast with a most loving air, and would fain have jumped into his lap. The good man, terrified at this outrageous behaviour, and

unable to endure the weight of so heavy a beast, cried out ; upon which, one of his servants, running in with a good stick, and laying on heartily upon the bones of the poor Ass, soon convinced him that every one who desires it is not qualified to be a favourite.

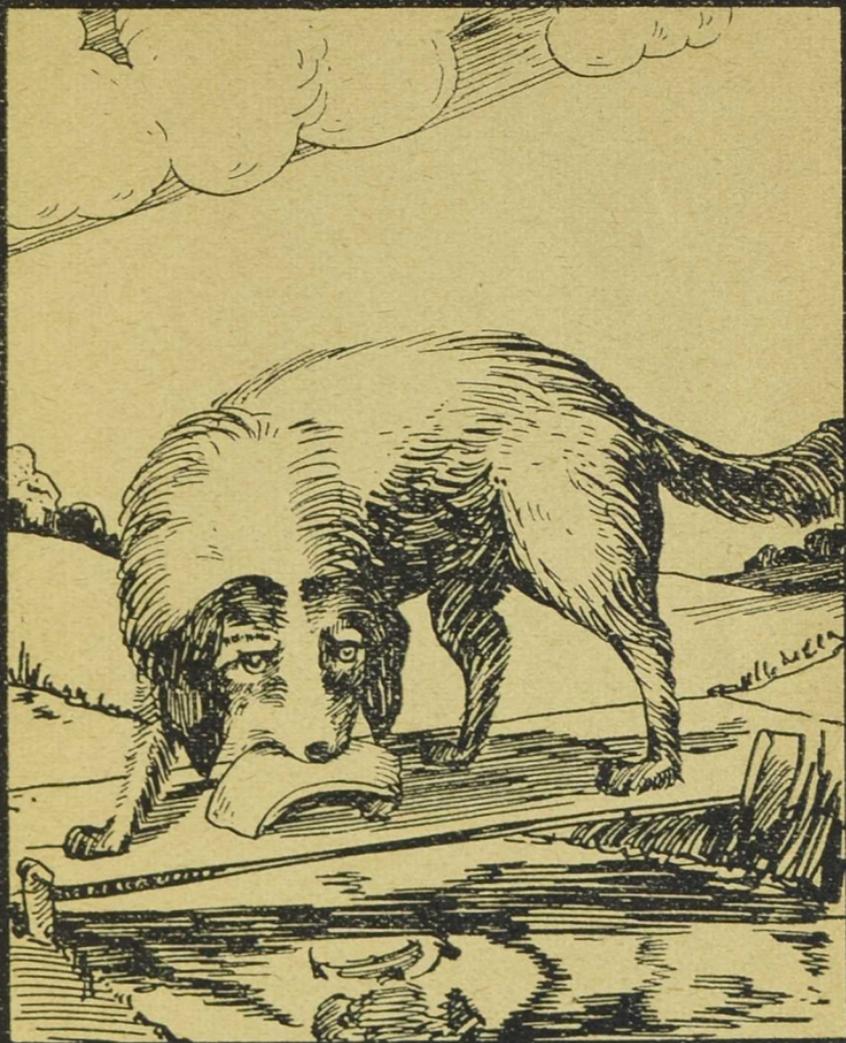


THE GOOD MAN TERRIFIED AT
THIS OUTRAGEOUS BEHAVIOUR

THE R. R. R. R. R.

THE DOG AND THE SHADOW.

A Dog, crossing a little rivulet, with a piece of flesh in his mouth, saw his own shadow represented in the clear mirror of the limpid stream; and believing it to be another dog, who was carrying another piece of flesh, he could not forbear catching at it; but was so far from getting anything by his greedy design, that he dropped the piece he had in his mouth, which immediately sunk to the bottom, and was irrecoverably lost.



THE DOG AND SHADOW

Tom R. Rigby.

THE GEESE AND THE CRANES.

A FLOCK of Geese and a parcel of Cranes used often to feed together in a corn-field. At last the owner of the corn, with his servants, coming upon them of a sudden, surprised them in the very act ; and the Geese, being heavy, fat, full-bodied creatures, were most of them sufferers ; but the Cranes, being thin and light, easily flew away.



**BUT THE CRANES EASILY
FLEW AWAY**

TOM R. RICE

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