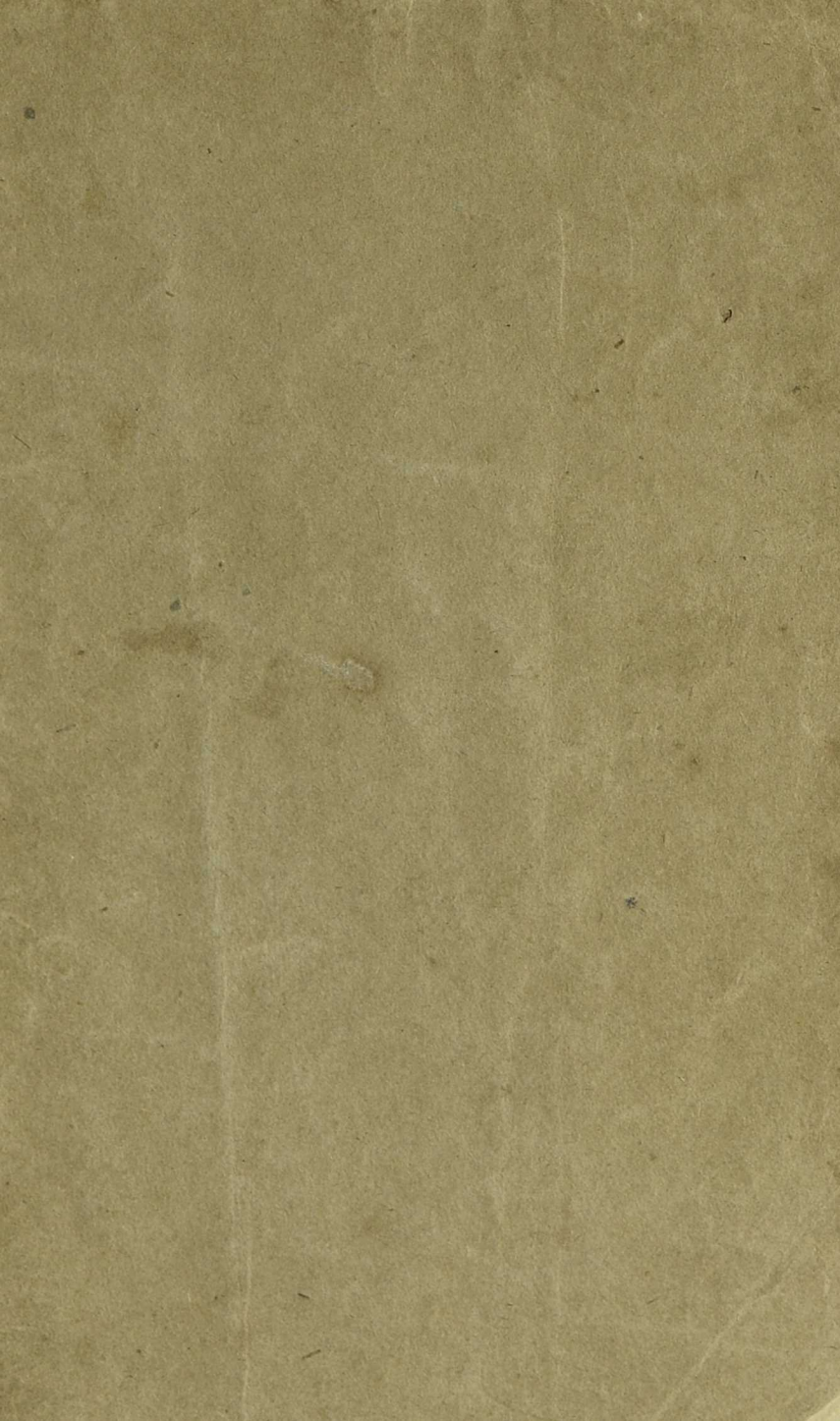
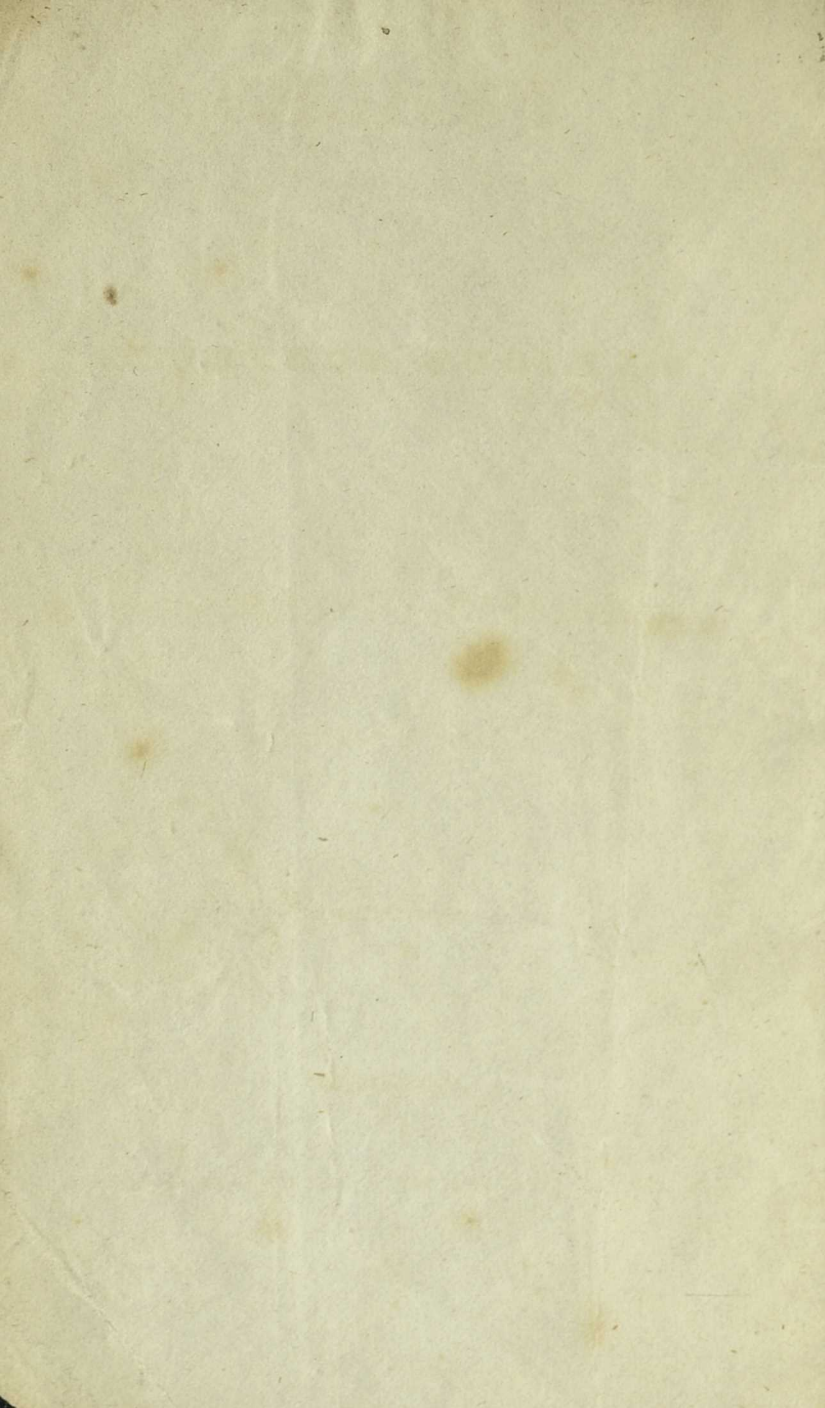






George Gore's book
FABLES *June 1*
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ON

VARIOUS SUBJECTS,

BY

THOMAS FOSTER, JUN.

Aged Six Years.

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PREFACE.

*These Fables were written at the desire of his
very kind Friend, Miss Thomas, to whom they are
respectfully dedicated, by*

Her humble obliged Servant,

THOMAS FOSTER, Jun.

AGED SIX YEARS.

Clapham,

APRIL 19th, 1822.

FABLES.



THE RABBIT AND THE CAT.

A pretty little Rabbit, while it was eating its cabbage, was watched by a cat; when it had done, the cat said, "Ah, sir, I see what you are about;" then the Rabbit replied, "I am only eating my meal," and it said, "you can get your dinner at any time." And the Cat said, "What a little lazy thing you are, and I wonder what use you are of, being shut up in that place, while I am wandering about all the night, and obliged to get my own food and clear the house of all the rats and mice." And the Rabbit said, "I am very useful to mankind in making fur tippets to keep one warm, and I have a very nice little coat, and any body likes me, and I am very nice when roasted—I am very nice to eat; and I am very useful;" and on saying this the Cat seized on the poor Rabbit and eat it up.

THE MORAL.

See how tame the poor little Rabbit was; though he was of great use, yet how humble he was. Humility

THE BOY AND THE DONKEY.

A Boy was going along a meadow where a donkey was pasturing, which he mounted and beat very cruelly. "Why," said the Donkey, "should you beat me so unmercifully, when I have got a young one, and you will be in danger of hurting my nice milk." The Boy replied, "It is because you are so stupid and obstinate." Upon which the Ass rejoined, "I am glad to find that you see how wrong it is, but I have given you no cause to think so of me;" and the Boy then went away.

THE MORAL.

Wicked children get no good by playing with such animals as dogs, cats, horses and donkies, and teasing them, for in the end they generally get some hurt.

THE LION AND THE ELEPHANT.

The Lion thinking himself the noblest of all animals, proudly addressed the Elephant, and began by saying, "Though you appear so much bigger, yet I am the King of the forest, and am much handsomer than you are." "But," said the Elephant, "I do not consider my beauty so much as my usefulness to mankind, for I am very mild, docile, and will suffer people to ride on my back; and also my tusks can be used for many valuable pur-

poses." "But," the Lion said, "I come out of my den prowling about for food all the night." And the Elephant answered, "I see you are a cunning, deceitful creature." On which the Lion fell upon the Elephant, and tore him to pieces.

THE MORAL.

Children must see how delightful it is to be mild and tractable, as they are always liked; while those with violent tempers are not only disagreeable, but are dangerous associates.

THE BOY AND THE PONEY.

A Boy had a Poney, and was exceedingly kind to him, but the Poney thought what hardships he had to endure, when the Boy said, "You, my good Poney, carry me wherever I want to go, and I shall not be unmindful of your deserts, or suffer you to be exposed to any ill treatment, so that you may make yourself perfectly easy on that account;" and the Poney said, "I am glad I have found so good a master, whom I shall be happy to serve as long as I am able; and when old age shall come upon me, I will trust to your kindness and liberality for a continuance of my comforts and moderate enjoyments.

THE MORAL.

Thus we see how the benefits bestowed on mankind, by the kind intention of Providence in giving him rule

over the brute creation, may be rendered most beneficial, as well as productive of the greatest satisfaction, by gentle and kind treatment.

THE OWL AND THE MOUSE.

An Owl went into a barn, where, after being some time, he heard the noise of a mouse nibbling at the corn. "So," said he to his companion, "what are you about?" "I am only eating my supper, and shall be very happy to give you a bit." Upon which the Owl replied, "You have not any to give, as it is not your own, and you are robbing your master of it; and I think it very wrong of you to take advantage when your master is asleep; but I shall go out and get my supper." Upon which he flew and got into a high tree, where he found a small bird's nest, which he immediately seized and ate up; he then returned to the barn again, where he met his old companion. "Well," says he, "you are still hard at work at your master's grain; for my part I have had but an indifferent supper, and as I think it an improper thing for you to be stealing, I must get a bit more," upon which he seized upon the poor little mouse, and eat her up.

THE MORAL.

How apt we are to find fault with others when we ourselves are doing the same thing. You may see in

the Owl how wrong it is to go and rob the poor birds of their young, and I hope we shall guard against it ourselves.

THE TWO FRIENDS.

Once on a time two friends met together, and they began conversing with one another. "How do you do? I am very glad to see you look so well. I was just coming to see you. Will you like to walk in?" "I am much obliged to you, but I cannot walk in now, for I want to go a little farther; perhaps you will like to walk with me?" "Yes, I am much obliged to you, I'll walk up with you, my dear friend, as I have something important to communicate to you, and I do not like to do any thing without taking your advice, as I well know the sensibility of your mind and right reasoning in all things." Upon which the other replied, "I am much obliged to you for your good opinion of me, and I hope you will never have any reason to alter it, for be assured I could never do any thing without consulting you." "What I wish to ask your advice upon is, I am about making an acquaintance with a young person whom your mother knows,

and I think that I should like her society very much." When the other said, "I well know that my parents do not think her correct in all things, therefore you had better not become too intimate." So that he resolved to have nothing more to say to her, and which, as you will see hereafter, turned out very fortunate, as this young person proved very disobedient to her parents, and a great story-teller. When his friend said, "I return you many thanks for giving me such good advice;" and the other replied, "I hope our friendship will ever continue."

THE MORAL.

With what delight we can view the friendship of two people, which is the greatest of all earthly acquisitions; therefore, how very particular people should be in the choice of a friend; and above all things, that can be no real friendship which is merely founded upon interest. Gratitude and fidelity to a friend are the best qualities that can adorn our nature; but having once chosen him, we should repose in him all manner of confidence, and in his turn keep his secrets, and be ever ready to do him any service that is consistent with the rules of religion and virtue, so that we shall hope for assistance in the hour of distress, and a person to comfort us in the day of trouble. He that requires any thing contrary to these can never be a real friend.

THE ROSE AND THE HEARTSEASE.

A tall proud Rose-tree which stood beside a poor little Heartsease, began saying, "What a poor little mean thing you are, when I am the pride of the garden; and as to you, you are the smallest of the garden, and I am a fine flower." And the Heartsease replied, "Though I am not so handsome as you are, I have not got any thorns, and am a nice little flower, and every body likes me." To which the Rose replied, "See I am a high noble flower, and every body is fond of the fragrance of my smell; and they like to see me grown in their gardens, as I make a conspicuous figure in their nosegays, while you can scarcely be seen, you are such a little insignificant flower; and indeed all the flowers of the garden look up to me." When the Heartsease replied, "I am sure I assist a nosegay very much, though I allow I am smaller than you, yet I afford great consolation to the mind; and to what purpose is all the appearances that you can make when you recollect how soon you must die, then what will all your beauty avail you.

THE MORAL.

See the pride of the Rose and the humbleness of the Heartsease, which we too often see in mankind. How carefully ought we to guard against so mischievous a vice as that of pride, and hope to learn to be contented, and more moderate in our enjoyments of

them, that we may delight in and imitate the humility of the Heartsease, while we moderately enjoy the beauty of the Rose without being wounded with the thorns; then may we enjoy the honey of pleasure, while we avoid the venom of its sting.

THE TULIP AND THE SNOW-DROP.

In the garden grew a very handsome Tulip, and a delicate little Snow-drop close beside it. The Tulip said, "What a beautiful flower I am! see my gay colours shining in the sun!" When the poor Snow-drop replied, "I am liked for my delicate appearance, and a little white flower am I, and am reckoned a very pretty one in the winter, and we must all wither and die." And the Tulip said, "My roots last for ever, and always flower again in the summer; and I have a great variety of colours, and my appearance altogether makes a most conspicuous show in the garden." And the Snow-drop replied, "But your smell has not any fragrance to boast of, and you are obliged to have a fine covering to protect you, or else if there comes much rain upon you, it will spoil your gay colours." And the Tulip said, "It is true I own I have something to shelter me, but it is not to hide my defects, nor do I hang my head down as you do, and my beauty is much esteemed by every body; and I always make a

great show in every nosegay." The Snow-drop said, "Certainly I admire your beauty and esteem your worth, but do not envy it on account of your boasting."

THE MORAL.

We shall behold in the Tulip all that vanity and pride which some people show off in displaying themselves, which often defeats its own purposes and least recommends them, and in time, like the Tulip, their gay and gaudy appearance must wither and die; then who would not prefer the meek and humble behaviour of the little innocent Snow-drop, which we ought to endeavour to imitate, as every one will do well to be humble and submissive, as children should be to their parents and teachers; and never be rude nor headstrong, but be obedient, for they will be more admired who make the least show, and are humble in their own opinions, which they will ever find to be most lasting.

THE PEACOCK AND THE GOOSE.

In a very large farm yard there was a very beautiful Peacock and a Goose; and the Peacock began to say, "What a very handsome creature am I, and I make such a great show beside you!" And the Goose replied, "You need not boast of your beauty so much, for your horrid squalling throat frightens every body, in fact you are the terror of every body in the neigh-

bourhood; besides your shape and your sticking-out claws are no great things to be proud of; and as to your flesh there is not any body can touch that, while I am generally preferred, and one day in the year I make a most conspicuous dish upon almost every one's table." "Hey-day," said the Peacock, "you have forgotten, when you speak of my squalling throat, that you have a most hideous hissing noise yourself; but I have 'tis true a very nasty voice, but it is the nature of all animals to have some noise, and every one must have some, both man and beast; besides it is better for me not to find fault with what I cannot avoid.

THE MORAL.

I hope all children will be cautious how they find fault with others, and be continually praising themselves, and particularly avoid thinking much of their own personal beauty, for after all they will find that like the Peacock, a person with less accomplishments, and not half so beautiful, will, by being humble, be much more thought of; for as we see by the Goose, which is certainly not so handsome, and is generally thought a silly bird, how much superior it appears than the Peacock, that I hope we shall ever avoid speaking of ourselves, for boasting people, however great they may appear for awhile, are sure to come to nothing in the end; therefore learn to be content with what nature has endowed you with, for that will in the end make you most happy.

THE LAP DOG, THE SHEPHERD'S DOG, AND THE SHEEP.

In a very nice field there were some very nice Sheep and a Shepherd's Dog, when a lady, with a most beautiful little Lap Dog, passed that way. The Shepherd's Dog began addressing the Lap Dog by saying, "How watchful I am to my master, and take care of his sheep all night, whilst he is asleep, from all the wild beasts in the forest." And the Lap Dog said, "I have not to run about in the cold as you do, nor have I to mind the Sheep all night for my master, but live at home comfortable and happy; and besides everybody is pleased with my most beautiful sleek hair, and the ladies nurse me—indeed I am a general favorite of theirs, and lie on a sofa, where I may sleep: and you, with taking care of your master's sheep, are not half so handsome, whilst I am sure I fare much better than you; but you would no doubt like to be in a nice comfortable warm room instead of running about in the cold; and I am certain I would not change places with you." "Well, for my part," said the Sheep, "I do not envy you, but think I am most useful, for my wool makes very nice clothes, and I am made use of for a great many things; besides, after my death, I am of great use to my master, for he makes a great deal of money of me, and my flesh is thought one of the best of meats." "Well," cried both his companions, "if you reckon that any advantage we beg you will keep it to

yourself, for indeed we are pretty sure we should not like to be killed and eaten up, for we think it is much better to be minding our master's sheep and home, instead of idling about in the fields as you do; and for our parts we think we are quite as happy as you are."

THE MORAL.

What a lesson for young people, who I hope will endeavour to imitate the gratitude of the two Dogs, their fidelity to their masters, the watchfulness of the little Dog in guarding the house all night, and the Shepherd's Dog in protecting the sheep; therefore I hope all children will be grateful to their parents, who have had so much care and anxiety and trouble about them; but if they have a good heart they can never be wanting in gratitude: and likewise they should endeavour to imitate the mild simplicity of the sheep, which is ever an amiable quality.

THE FOX, THE HEN, AND CHICKENS.

There were in a very nice farm yard a Hen and some very pretty Chickens, when a very sly and cunning Fox peeped in, the poor old Hen began saying to

her little Chickens, "Take care, my little children, look at that nasty old cunning Fox, I am afraid he is after no good, and if you do not mind he will eat you up at one mouthful; therefore, my little dears, I hope you will be a guard and protection to each other, and never run away from your Mother, but be very good and attentive, and always do what is bid you, for in the end, if you do not, you will come to no good, for that old Fox is coming up to see what we are about, and so therefore, my little dears, be very careful, or else he will kill us all and eat us up; and so if he talks to us we must mind what we say to him, for he will go and hide somewhere till he finds an opportunity." The Fox then walked forward, and began to say, "I heard what you were saying all the time, although you did not see me, for I was not far off, and am very hungry;" and on saying this he seized on the poor Hen and Chickens and eat them up.

THE MORAL.

Observe with what slyness the Fox tries his arts, which many people should guard against, and see the kindness of the old Hen in giving her little Chickens such good advice, which indeed is very kind of her; and the old deep Fox going and hiding till he found an opportunity to meet them by themselves, when there was nobody in the way. Indeed there is not a

more dangerous vice than slyness, which is always watching its opportunity to hurt and betray us; but in the end sly people are sure to be found out.

THE GOAT, THE KID, AND THE WOLF.

A Goat was taking an airing with her young Kid, when a very nasty Wolf, who was passing along that way, began addressing them. "It is a fine day—you are taking a pleasant walk with your young one. Have you met with any friends on your way hither?" The Goat replied, "I met a flock of sheep, but they had some dogs with them, so I came another road." "Oh, oh," said the Wolf, "which way did they go then?" "Why," said the Kid, "they were going to that meadow just by." "Very well," said the Wolf, "I am much obliged to you friend—I will wish you good morning, and I shall have the pleasure of meeting you here to-morrow." "Yes," said the Goat, indeed I shall be very happy to see you, and we will be here again about this time." Then off the Wolf went to see if he could find out where the sheep were; he very soon found them out, but seeing the dogs with the sheep, he thought he had better walk away, so he skulked off in hopes of meeting his friend the next morning, but he was very much deceived, for the Goat

said to her young one on the Wolf's departure, "We must make the best of our way home, for we have been very lucky to escape that enemy, for be assured that he meant to destroy us if he could.

THE MORAL.

How careful we should be to guard against the treachery of others. Had the young Kid not minded the good advice of her parent, she would in all probability have fallen into the hands of the wicked Wolf. It shows how necessary it is to attend to the advice given us by those who are older; indeed good people need never fear the artifices of the wicked, as they are always cowardly, which we see by the Wolf, so I hope all children will endeavour to be good, and pray to God to make them so, for without his aid we can do nothing, nor can we ever expect to prosper if we are not religious.

THE MAN, THE COWS, AND THE MONKEY.

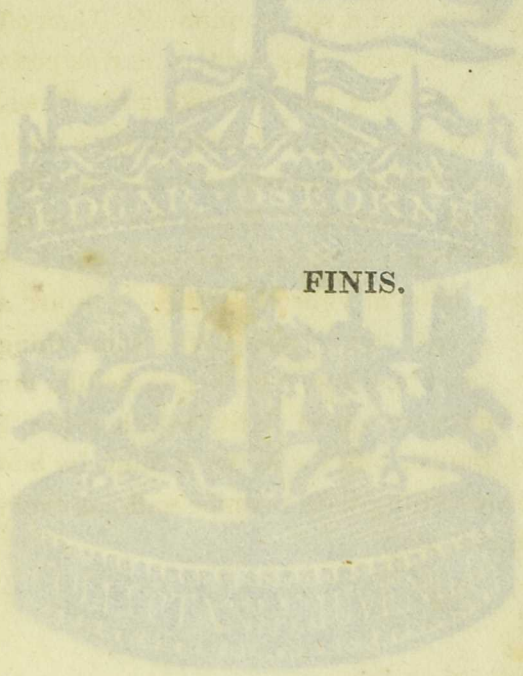
There was a man milking some Cows, and a Monkey kept watching what he was doing, at last he addressed him thus: "What you are milking your mas-

ter's Cows; but are you not doing very wrong in drinking it up as fast as you can, and so I shall inform your master of it." "Indeed," said the Man, "I beg you will hold your tongue, for it is not proper to tell such tales, and I shall not admit of your sleeping in this house if I find you are a spy upon me." Then off the man went with his pails. As soon as he was gone the Monkey began imitating him by milking the Cows. "Oh," says he, "I think I will just taste it, for it must be very good," so just as he had nearly done, the Cow gave him a kick on his face. When the man returned, he said, "What is the matter with you? I perceive you have been at your old tricks—you are a good one to give advice, when you do the same thing yourself." "Oh," said the Cow, "he began tasting the milk as soon as you were out of sight, and therefore I thought I would punish him for it, for I think he had no business to be meddling with my nice milk, as every body is very fond of it."

THE MORAL.

Wicked people are sure to come to some misfortune, as the poor Monkey did; but how necessary it is to set good examples, which the man ought to have done: and likewise we ought not to imitate what is bad, but endeavour and constantly persevere in fol-

lowing the good examples set us by our parents, and above every thing avoid being deceitful and telling lies, for without truth in all our actions, it can never be expected that we should prosper in this life, nor have any happiness in that which is to come.



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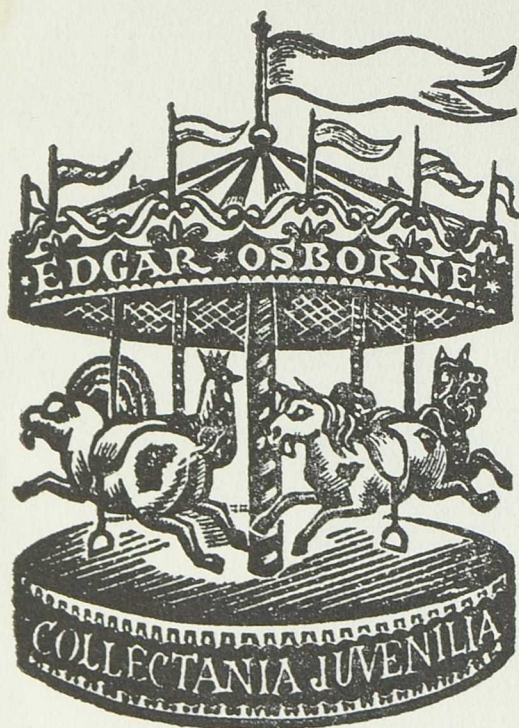
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