

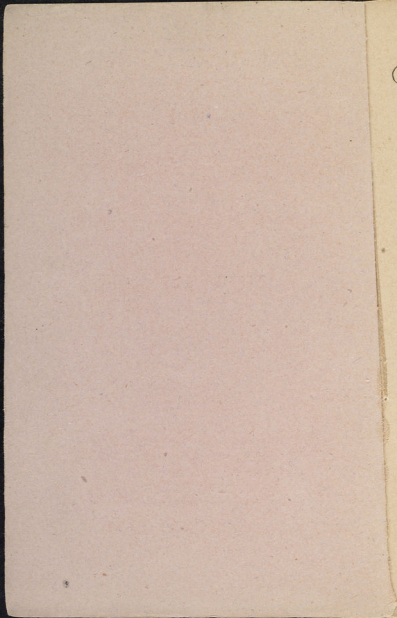
UNCLE FRANK'S
FABLES,

FOR
CHILDREN.

THE
UNDUTIFUL YOUNG LION.



WM. H. MURPHY
PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.
384 PEARL STREET,
NEW-YORK.



Juvenile



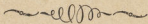
UNCLE FRANK'S

SELECT

Fables,

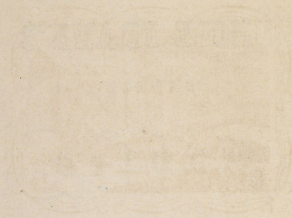
FOR

Good Boys and Girls.



NEW-YORK :

WM. H. MURPHY, PRINTER & PUBLISHER,
Franklin Bookstore 384 Pearl Street.



THE END OF THE LINE

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THE THIEF AND THE DOG.

A THIEF, coming to rob a certain house in the night was disturbed in his attempts by a fierce vigilant Dog, who kept barking at him continually. Upon which the Thief, thinking to stop his mouth, threw him a piece of bread: but the Dog refused it with indignation; telling him, that before, he only suspected him to be a bad man; but now, upon his offering to bribe him, he was confirmed in his opinion; and that, as he was intrusted with the guardianship of his master's house, he should never cease barking while such a rogue is he lay lurking about it.

Select Fables.

REFLECTION.

It is a common and known maxim, to suspect an enemy, even the more, for his endeavouring to convince us of his benevolence; because the oddness of the thing puts us upon our guard, and makes us conclude, that some pernicious design must be couched under so sudden and unexpected a turn of behaviour: but it is no unnecessary caution to be upon the watch against even indifferent people, when we perceive them uncommonly forward in their approaches of civility and kindness. The man, who at first sight makes us an offer, which is due only to particular and well acquainted friends, must be either a knave, and intends by such a bait to draw us into his net; or a fool, with whom we ought to avoid having any communication.

Thus far the consideration of this Fable may be useful to us in private life; what it contains farther, in relation to the public, is, That a man, truly honest, will never let his mouth be stopped with a bribe; but the greater the offer is, which is designed to buy his silence, the louder, and more constantly, will he open it against the miscreants who would practice it upon him.



THE SHEPHERD AND THE YOUNG WOLF.

A SHEPHERD took a Wolf's sucking whelp, and trained it up with his dogs. The whelp fed with them, grew up with them, and whensoever they went out upon the chase of a wolf, the whelp would be sure to make one. It happened sometimes that the wolf escaped; but this domestic Wolf would be still hunting on, after the dogs had given over the chase, till he came up to his true brethren, where he took part of the prey with them, and then went back again to his master. And when he could come in for no snacks with the wolves, he would now and then make free, by the bye, with a straggling sheep out of the

Select Fables.

flock. He carried on this trade for a while; but at last he was caught in the fact, and hanged by his injured master.

REFLECTION.

Ill dispositions may be dissembled for a while, but nature is very hardly to be altered, either by counsel or education. It may do well enough for curiosity and experiment, to try how far ill-natured men, and other creatures, may be wrought upon by fair usage and good breeding; but the inclination and cruelty of the dam will be hardly ever out of the whelp. This fable is a true portrait of an ungrateful and treacherous mind, which, according to the proverb, *holds with the Hare, and runs with the Hound*; which pretends greater zeal than others, like the Wolf's whelp in the chase, in the detection and pursuit of a common enemy; but at the same time divides spoils with him, and rather than want an opportunity of doing mischief, will prey privately upon the property he pretends to defend. Many such instances we might give in public life; and there **have been too many** such also in private life.



THE PEACOCK AND THE CRANE.

THE Peacock and the Crane by chance met together. 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.

REFLECTION.

The mind which is stored with virtuous and rational

Select Fables.

sentiments, and the behaviour which speaks complacency and humility, stamps an estimate upon the possessor, which all judicious spectators are ready to admire and acknowledge. But if there be any merit in an embroidered coat, a brocade waistcoat, a shoe, a stocking, or sword-knot, the person who wears them has the least claim to it; let it be ascribed where it justly belongs—to the several artisans, who wrought and disposed the materials of which they consist. This moral is not intended to derogate any thing from the magnificence of fine clothes, and rich equipages, which, as times and circumstances require, may be used with decency and propriety enough: but one cannot help being concerned, lest any worth should be affixed to them more than their own intrinsic value.



THE LEOPARD AND THE FOX.

A LEOPARD and a Fox had a contest which was the finer creature of the two. The Leopard put forward the beauty of its numberless spots; but the Fox replied—"It is better to have a versatile mind than a variegated body."



THE FOX AND THE COUNTRYMAN.

A Fox being hard hunted, and having run a long chase, was quite tired. At last he spied a countryman in a wood, to whom he applied for refuge, entreating that he would give him leave to hide himself in his cottage, until the hounds were gone by. The man consented, and the Fox went and covered himself up close in the corner of the cottage. Presently the hunters came up, and inquired of the man, if he had seen the Fox. "No," says he, "I have not seen him indeed:" but all the while he pointed with his finger to the place where the Fox was secreted. However, the hunters did not under-

stand him, but called off their hounds, and went another way. Soon after the Fox, creeping out of his hole, was going to sneak off; when the man, calling after him, asked, "if that was his manners, to go away without thanking his benefactor, to whose fidelity he owed his life." Reynard, who had peeped all the while, and seen what passed, answered, "I know what obligations I owe you well enough; and I assure you, if your actions had but been agreeable to your words, I should have endeavoured, however unable of it, to have returned you suitable thanks.

REFLECTION.

Sincerity is a most valuable virtue: but there are some, whose natures are so poor-spirited and cowardly, that they are not capable of exerting it. Indeed, unless a man be steady and constant in all his actions, he will hardly deserve the name of sincere. An open enemy, though more violent and terrible, is not, however, so odious and detestable as a false friend. To pretend to keep another's counsel, and appear in their interest, while underhand we are giving intelligence to their enemies, is treacherous, knavish, and base.



THE BLIND MAN AND THE LAME.

A BLIND Man, being stopped in a bad piece of road, meets with a Lame Man, and entreats him to guide him through the difficulty he was got into. "How can I do that," replied the Lame Man, "since I am scarce able to drag myself along? but as you appear to be very strong, if you will carry me, we will seek our fortunes together. It will then be my interest to warn you of any thing that may obstruct your way; your feet shall be my feet, and my eyes yours." "With all my heart," returned the Blind Man; "let us render each other our mutual services." So taking his lame companion on his back, they by

Select Fables.

means of their union travelled on with safety and pleasure.

REFLECTION.

The wants and weaknesses of individuals form the connections of society.



THE ONE-EYED DOE.

A DOE that had but one eye used to graze near the sea, and that she might be the more secure from attack, kept her eye towards the land against the approach of the hunters, and her blind side towards the sea, whence she feared no danger. But some sailors rowing by in a boat and seeing her, aimed at her from the water and shot her. When at her last gasp, she sighed to herself: "Ill-fated creature that I am! I was safe on the land-side, whence I expected to be attacked, but find an enemy in the sea, to which I most looked for protection."

REFLECTION.

Our troubles often come from the quarter whence we least expect them.



THE YOUNG MAN AND THE SWALLOW.

A PRODIGAL young Spendthrift, who had wasted his whole patrimony in taverns and gaming houses among idle company, was taking a melancholy walk near a brook. It was in the month of January, and happened to be one of those warm sunshiny days, which sometimes smile upon us even in that wintry season of the year; and to make it the more flattering, a Swallow, which had made its appearance, by mistake, too soon, flew skimming along upon the surface of the water. The giddy youth, observing this, without any farther consideration, concluded that summer was now come, and that he should have

Select Fables.

little or no occasion for clothes, so went and pawned them at the broker's, and ventured the money for one stake more, among his sharpening companions. When this too was gone the same way with the rest, he took another solitary walk in the same place as before. But the weather, being severe and frosty, had made every thing look with an aspect very different from what it did before; the brook was quite frozen over, and the poor Swallow lay dead upon the bank of it; the very sight of which cooled the young spark's brains, and coming to a kind of sense of his misery, he reproached the deceased bird, as the author of all his misfortunes. "Ah, wretch that thou wast!" says he, "thou hast undone both thyself and me, who was so credulous as to depend upon thee."

REFLECTION.

Some will listen to no conviction but what they derive from fatal experience.

Still blind to reason, nature, and his God,
Youth follows pleasure, till he feels the rod
Of sad experience, then bemoans his fate,
Nor sees his folly till it is too late.



THE PARTIAL JUDGE.

A FARMER came to a neighbouring Lawyer, expressing great concern for an accident which he said had just happened. "One of your oxen," continued he, "has been gored by an unlucky bull of mine, and I shall be glad to know how I am to make you a reparation." "Thou art a very honest fellow," replied the Lawyer, and wilt not think it unreasonable that I expect one of thy oxen in return." "It is no more than justice," quoth the Farmer, "to be sure: but what did I say!—I mistake—It is your bull that has killed one of my oxen." "Indeed," says the Lawyer, "that alters the case: I must inquire into

Select Fables.

the affair; and if"—“And *if!*” said the Farmer, “the business I find would have been concluded without an *if*, had you been as ready to do justice to others as to exact it from them.”

REFLECTION.

The injuries we do, and those we suffer, are seldom weighed in the same scales.

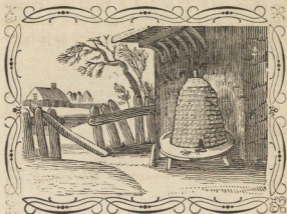


THE WIDOW AND THE SHEEP.

THERE WAS a certain Widow who had an only Sheep; and, wishing to make the most of his wool, she sheared him so closely that she cut his skin as well as his fleece. The Sheep, smarting under this treatment, cried out—“Why do you torture me thus? What will my blood add to the weight of the wool? If you want my flesh, Dame, send for the Butcher, who will put me out of my misery at once; but if you want my fleece, send for the Shearer, who will clip my wool without drawing my blood.”

REFLECTION.

Middle measures are often but middling measures.



THE GNAT AND THE BEE.

A GNAT, half starved with cold and hunger, went one frosty morning to a Bee-hive, to beg charity : and offered to teach music in the Bee's family, for her diet and lodging. The Bee very civilly desired to be excused : for, says she, I bring up all my children to my own trade, that they may be able to get their living by their industry ; and I am sure I am right ; for see what that music, which you would teach my children, has brought you yourself to !

REFLECTION.

The many unhappy persons, whom we daily see

Select Fables.

singing up and down in order to divert other people, though with very heavy hearts of their own, should warn all those, who have the education of children, how necessary it is to bring them up to industry and business, be their present prospects ever so hopeful; that so, upon any unexpected disaster, they might be able to turn their hands to a course which might procure them an honest livelihood.

The Gnat in the fable, we may further observe, is very like many inconsiderate persons in life: they gaily buzz about in the *summer of prosperity*, and think of nothing but their present enjoyments: but when the *winter of adversity* comes, they poorly creep about, and supplicate the industrious inhabitants of every *Bee-hive*, charitably to relieve those wants which they have brought upon themselves; and often deservedly meet the repulse and the sting, which the Bee gives to the Gnat in the fable.

The wretch, who works not for his daily bread,
Sighs and complains, but ought not to be fed.
Think, when you see stout beggars on their stand,
The lazy are the locusts of the land.



THE FIGHTING COCKS.

Two Cocks were fighting for the sovereignty of the dunghill. And one of them having got the better of the other, he that was vanquished crept into a hole, and hid himself for some time; but the victor flew up to an eminent place, clapt his wings and crowed out victory. An eagle, who was watching for his prey near the place, saw him, and making a stoop, seized him in his talons, and carried him off. The Cock that had been beaten, perceiving this, soon quitted his hole, and shaking off all remembrance of his late disgrace, gallanted the hens with all the intrepidity imaginable.

Select Fables.

REFLECTION.

This fable shows the impropriety and inconvenience of running into extremes. Much of our happiness depends upon keeping an even balance in our words and actions; in not suffering the scale of our reason to mount us too high in time of prosperity, nor to sink us too low with the weight of adverse fortune.



THE BLACKAMOOR.

A CERTAIN man bought a Blackamoor, and thinking that the color of his skin arose from the neglect of his former master, he no sooner brought him home than he procured all manner of scouring apparatus, scrubbing-brushes, soaps, and sand-paper, and set to work with his servants to wash him white again. They drenched and rubbed him for many an hour, but all in vain; his skin remained as black as ever; while the poor wretch all but died from the cold he caught under the operation.

REFLECTION.

No human means avail of themselves to change a nature originally evil.



THE STAG LOOKING INTO THE WATER.

A STAG, that had been drinking at a clear spring, saw himself in the water; and, pleased with the prospect, stood for some time contemplating and surveying his shape and features, from head to foot. "Ah!" says he, "what a glorious pair of branching horns are there! How gracefully do those antlers hang over my forehead, and give an agreeable turn to my whole face! If some other parts of my body were but proportionate to them, I would turn my back to nobody; but I have such a set of legs as really makes me ashamed to see them. People may talk what they please of their conveniences, and in

Select Fables.

what great need we stand of them, upon several occasions; but for my part, I find them so very slender and unsightly, that I had as well have none at all." While he was giving himself these airs, he was alarmed with the noise of some huntsmen and a pack of hounds, that were making towards him. Away he flies in great consternation, and, bounding nimbly over the plain, threw dogs and men at a vast distance behind him. After which, taking a very thick copse, he had the ill-fortune to be entangled by his horns in a thicket; where he was held fast, till the hounds came in and pulled him down. Finding now how it was like to go with him, in the pangs of death, he is said to have uttered these words: "Unhappy creature that I am! I am too late convinced, that, what I prided myself in, has been the cause of my undoing; and what I so much disliked, was the only thing that could have saved me."

REFLECTION.

We should examine things deliberately, and candidly consider their real usefulness before we place our esteem on them; otherwise, like the foolish Stag, we may happen to admire those accomplishments which are of no real use, and often prove prejudicial to us, while we despise those things on which our safety may depend.



THE ANTS AND THE GRASSHOPPER.

As the Ants were airing their provisions one winter, a hungry Grasshopper begged charity of them. They told him, that he should have wrought in summer, if he would not have wanted in winter. "Well," says the Grasshopper, "but I was not idle neither; for I sung out the whole season." "Nay, then," said they, "you will even do well to make a merry year of it, and dance in winter to the tune you sung in summer."

REFLECTION.

The stress of this moral lies upon the preference of

honest labor to idleness; and the refusal of relief, on the one hand, is intended only for a reproof to the inconsiderate loss of opportunity, on the other. This does not hinder yet, but that the Ants, out of their abundance, ought to have relieved the Grasshopper in her distress, though it was her own fault that brought her to it: for if one man's faults could discharge another man of his duty, there would be no longer any place left for the common offices of society. To conclude, we have our failings, every one of us; and the improvidence of my neighbour must not make me inhuman. The Ant did well to reprove the Grasshopper for her slothfulness; but she did ill, after that, to refuse her charity in her distress.



THE CRAB AND HER MOTHER.

SAID an old Crab to a young one, "Why do you walk so crooked, child? walk straight!" "Mother," said the young Crab, "show me the way, will you? and when I see you taking a straight course, I will try and follow."

REFLECTION.

Example is better than precept.



THE HARES AND THE FROGS.

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 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 stopped by that of a gentle brook which glided across the way they intended to take. This

Select Fables.

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 their approach, leaped 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."

REFLECTION.

There is no contending with the orders and decrees of Providence. He that makes us, knows what is fittest for us; and every man's own lot, well understood and managed, is undoubtedly the best.

The miseries of half mankind unknown,
Fools vainly think no sorrows like their own;
But view the world, and you will learn to bear
Misfortunes well, since all men have their share.



THE DOG AND THE BULL.

THERE WAS ONCE a Dog that could beat all his fellows, and was so puffed up with the glory of his exploits, that nothing would serve him but he must challenge a Bull to the combat. They met, and after a short encounter, the Dog lay for dead ; but coming to himself again, " Well," says he, " this is the fruit of my insolence and folly, in provoking an enemy, that nature has made my superior."

REFLECTION.

It is not courage, but temerity, for men to venture

their lives, reputations, and fortunes upon unequal encounters; unless where they are obliged by an overruling impulse of honour, conscience, and duty, to stand all hazards. That, which the world accounts brave, is in truth, no better than brutal, where there is not reason, justice, and prudence to direct and govern it. It is one thing for a man to be firm, and fearless, against honest dangers, let them appear ever so terrible, when his honour for the purpose, his country, or his conscience, call upon him to encounter them: but to run his head against a wall, purely out of a vain opinion of his own strength, would be just the moral of the Dog in the fable.



THE SWALLOW IN CHANCERY.

A SWALLOW had built her nest under the eaves of a Court of Justice. Before her young ones could fly, a Serpent gliding out of his hole eat them all up. When the poor bird returned to her nest and found it empty, she began a pitiable wailing; but a neighbour suggesting, by way of comfort, that she was not the first bird who had lost her young, "True," she replied, "but it is not only my little ones that I mourn, but that I should have been wronged in that very place where the injured fly for justice."



THE CROW AND THE PITCHER.

A Crow, ready to die with thirst, flew with joy to a Pitcher which he beheld at some distance. When he came he found water in it, but so near the bottom, that with all his stooping and straining he was not able to reach it. Then he endeavoured to overturn the Pitcher, that at least he might be able to get a little; but his strength was not sufficient for this. At last, seeing some pebbles lie near the place, he cast them one by one into the Pitcher; and thus, by degrees, raised the water up to the very brim, and satisfied his thirst.

Select Fables.

REFLECTION.

Many things which cannot be effected by strength, or by the old vulgar way of enterprising, may yet be brought about by some new and untried means. A man of sagacity and penetration, upon encountering a difficulty or two, does not immediately despair; but if he cannot succeed one way, employs his wit and ingenuity another; and, to avoid or get over an impediment, makes no scruple of stepping out of the path of his forefathers. Since our happiness, next to the regulation of our minds, depends altogether upon our having and enjoying the conveniencies of life, why should we stand upon ceremony about the methods of obtaining them, or pay any deference to antiquity upon that score? If almost every age had not exerted itself in some new improvements of its own, we should want a thousand arts; or, at least, many degrees of perfection in every art, which at present we are in possession of. The invention of any thing, which is more commodious for the mind or body, than what they had before, ought to be embraced readily, and the projector of it distinguished with a suitable encouragement.



THE SWALLOW AND THE SPIDER.

A SPIDER, that observed a Swallow catching flies, fell immediately to work upon a net to catch Swallows ; for she looked upon it as an encroachment upon her right : but the birds, without any difficulty, broke through the work, and flew away with the very net itself. " Well," says the Spider, " bird-catching is none of my talent, I perceive ;" and so she returned to her old trade of catching flies again.

REFLECTION.

Every man should examine the strength of his own

mind with attention and impartiality, and not fondly flatter himself by measuring his own talents by the false standard of the abilities of another. We can no more adopt the genius of another man, than assume his shape and person; and an imitation of his manner would no more become us, than his clothes. Man is indeed an imitative animal; but whatever we take from general observation, without servilely copying the practice of any individual, becomes so mixed and incorporated with our notions that it may fairly be called our own. Almost every man has something original in himself, which, if duly cultivated, might perhaps procure him esteem and applause; but if he neglects his natural talents, or perverts them by an absurd imitation of others, he becomes an object of ridicule; especially, if he attempts to perform things beyond the compass of his strength or understanding.



THE DOG AND HIS MASTER.

A CERTAIN Man was setting out on a journey, when, seeing his Dog standing at the door, he cried out to him, "What are you gaping about? Get ready to come with me." The Dog, wagging his tail, said, "I am all right, Master; it is you who have to pack up."



THE FOX AND THE CROW.

A Crow, having taken a piece of cheese out of a cottage window, flew up into a high tree with it, in order to eat it; which a Fox observing, came and sat underneath, and began to compliment the Crow upon the subject of her beauty. "I protest," says he, "I never observed it before, but your feathers are of a more delicate white than any that ever I saw in my life! Ah! what a fine shape and graceful turn of body is there! And I make no question but you have a tolerable voice. If it is but as fine as your complexion, I do not know a bird that can pretend to stand in competition with you." The Crow tickled

Select Fables.

with this very civil language, nestled and rigged about, and hardly knew where she was; but thinking the Fox a little dubious as to the particular of her voice, and having a mind to set him right in that matter, began to sing, and in the same instant let the cheese drop out of her mouth. This being what the Fox wanted, he chopped it up in a moment, and trotted away, laughing to himself at the easy credulity of the Crow.

REFLECTION.

There is hardly any man living that may not be wrought upon more or less by flattery; for we do all of us naturally overween in our own favour. But when it comes to be applied once to a vain person, there is no end then can be proposed to be attained by it, but may be effected.

“ It is a maxim in the schools,

“ That Flattery 's the food of fools ;”

And whoso likes such airy meat,

Will soon have nothing else to eat



THE TWO POTS.

AN earthen Pot and one of brass, standing together upon the river's brink, were both carried away by the flowing in of the tide. The earthen Pot showed some uneasiness, as fearing he should be broken; but his companion of brass bid him be under no apprehensions, for that he would take care of him. O! replies the other, keep as far off as ever you can, I entreat you; it is you I am most afraid of: for, whether the stream dashes you against me, or me against you, I am sure to be the sufferer; and therefore, I beg of you, do not let us come near one another.

Select Fables.

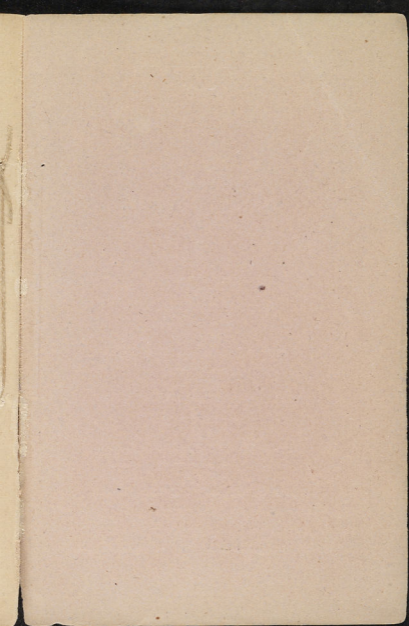
REFLECTION.

A man of a moderate fortune, who is contented with what he has, and finds that he can live happily upon it, should take care not to hazard and expose his felicity, by consorting with the great and powerful. People of equal conditions may float down the current of life without hurting each other; but it is a point of some difficulty to steer one's course in the company of the great, so as to escape without a bulge. One would not choose to have one's little country-box situated in the neighbourhood of a very great man; for whether I ignorantly trespass upon him, or he knowingly encroaches upon me, I only am like to be the sufferer. I can neither entertain, nor play with him, upon his own terms; for that which is moderation and diversion to him, in me would be extravagance and ruin.



THE TWO WALLETS.

EVERY man carries Two Wallets, one before and one behind, and both full of faults. But the one before, is full of his neighbour's faults; the one behind, of his own. Thus it happens that men are blind to their own faults, but never lose sight of their neighbour's.



MORAL
AND
ENTERTAINING
F A B L E S

FOR
CHILDREN.

I.
THE UNDUTIFUL YOUNG LION.

II.
THE THIEF AND THE DOG.

III.
THE FIR AND THE BRAMBLE.

IV.
THE ANT AND THE CATERPILLAR.

V.
THE SWALLOW AND OTHER BIRDS.

VI.
THE TORTOISE AND THE TWO CROWS.