

**PARABLES FROM
NATURE. FIRST AND
SECOND SERIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649667192

Parables from Nature. First and Second Series by Mrs. Alfred Gatty

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MRS. ALFRED GATTY

**PARABLES FROM
NATURE. FIRST AND
SECOND SERIES**

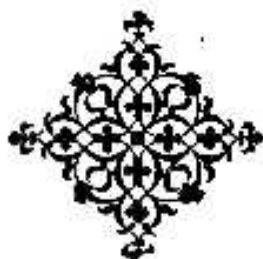


PARABLES FROM NATURE.

BY MRS. ALFRED GATTY,

AUTHOR OF "PROVERBS ILLUSTRATED," "WORLDS NOT
REALIZED," AND THE "FAIRY
GODMOTHERS."

FIRST AND SECOND SERIES.



LONDON:
GEORGE BELL AND SONS, YORK STREET,
COVENT GARDEN.

1875.

KC 13876



CHISWICK PRESS:—PRINTED BY WHITTINGHAM AND WILKINS,
TOOKS COURT, CHANCERY LANE.

These Parables,

WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY INSCRIBED

TO

GEORGE JOHNSTON, ESQ. M.D. LL.D. &c.

OF BERWICK-UPON-TWEED,

ARE, IN THEIR RE-ISSUE, DEDICATED TO

HIS MEMORY,

BY A GRATEFUL AND REGRETING FRIEND,

M. G.



PREFACE TO THE FIRST SERIES.

HERE are two books," says Sir Thomas Browne, in his *Religio Medici*, "from whence I collect my divinity; besides that written one of God, another of his servant, Nature—that universal and public manuscript that lies expanded unto the eyes of all: those that never saw Him in the one have discovered Him in the other." And afterwards, as if giving a particular direction to the above general statement, he adds: "Those strange and mystical transmigrations that I have observed in silkworms turned my philosophy into divinity. There is in these works of Nature, which seem to puzzle reason, something divine, and bath more in it than the eye of a common spectator doth discover."

Surely these two passages, from the works of the celebrated physician and philosopher, may justify an effort to gather moral lessons from some of the wonderful facts in God's creation: the more espe-

cially as St. Paul himself led the way to such a mode of instruction, in arguing the possibility of the resurrection of the body from the resurrection of vegetable life out of a decayed seed: "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened except it die!" *Thou fool*—fool! not to be able, in thy disputatious wisdom, to read that book of "God's servant, Nature," out of which there are indeed far more actual lessons of analogy to be learned than we are apt to suppose, or can at once detect. Assuredly, the changes of the silkworm, and the renewal of life from vegetable seed, are not more remarkable than the soaring butterfly rising from the earth grub—a change which, were the caterpillar a reasonable being, capable of contemplating its own existence, it would reject as an impossible fiction.

It was not, however, Sir Thomas Browne's remarks which gave rise to these parables; for the first was written in an outburst of excessive admiration of Hans Andersen's *Fairy Tales*, coupled with a regret that, although he had, in several cases, shown his power of drawing admirable morals from his exquisite peeps into nature, he had so often left his charming stories without an object or moral at all. Surely, was the thought, there either is, or may be devised, a moral in many more of the incidents of nature than Hans Andersen has tried for; and on this view the "Lesson of Faith" was written—an old story; for the ancients, with deep meaning, made the butterfly an emblem of