

**A CHILD'S VERSION OF ÆSOP'S
FABLES, WITH A SUPPLEMENT
CONTAINING FABLES FROM
LA FONTAINE AND KRILOF**

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A Child's Version of Æsop's Fables, with a Supplement Containing Fables from La Fontaine and Krilof by J. H. Stickney

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THE NURSE AND THE WOLF. Page 115.

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OF
ÆSOP'S FABLES,

WITH A

*SUPPLEMENT CONTAINING FABLES FROM
LA FONTAINE AND KRILOF.*

J. H. STICKNEY.

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PREFACE.

THE use of Fables for language and moral lessons in the primary classes of the Boston Training School led to the gradual adaptation of a considerable number to children's modes of thought and speech. For the plan of the teaching, and its partial development, indebtedness is gratefully acknowledged to the Oswego School, and to Miss M. E. M. Jones of London, its first teacher of methods.

We have seen nothing finer in teaching than the building up of these little stories in conversational lessons — first to illustrate some mental or moral trait; then to detach the idea from its story-picture, and find illustrations for it in some other act or incident. And nothing can be more gratifying as a result, than, through the transparency of childish hearts, to watch the growth of right conduct from the impulses derived from

the teaching; and so the laying of the foundations of future rightness of character.

But, however excellent a line of teaching may be known to be, the pressure in regular lines of work is so great that, as a rule, general lessons take an uncertain hold, unless clearly defined in subject-matter and made a part of the required programme.

The desire to give the Fables to children at the time in their lives when their teachings will have greatest influence, and to present them in such a style as to make them available to teachers and attractive to children, has led to the preparation of the present child's version.

The book is therefore first a Reader; then a means of Language Culture; and last, but by no means least, a partial manual of practical Ethics.

So far from attempting to render the fables in monosyllables, as is done in an English edition, the aim has been to choose such words as children of eight and nine ought to know; in brief, to present the Fables in the best language that children can grasp and retain. We have secured the co-operation of a number of writers, in order

to give interest and variety to the style. Some of the most sprightly renderings in the early part of the book are by Annie Moore, a contributor to "St. Nicholas," "Youth's Companion," and other children's magazines.

Like most collections, the list of Fables embraces a few not attributed to Æsop, the interest of the lessons being thought to be of more consequence than their authorship. While many of them contain lessons and suggest applications that are beyond the comprehension of childhood, there is in each either a good to appropriate or a fault to shun, plainly indicated, and so naturally interwoven in the story as to be a part of its life.

In the Appendix may be found added suggestions to teachers.

The Supplement presents selections from La Fontaine, and a few of the best known from Krilof, the Russian Æsop.

Jean de La Fontaine (1621-1695) was a French poet, and the greatest of French fabulists. He wrote a great many original fables, and rendered in verse the most familiar of Æsop's. The translation into English is by Elizur Wright.

Krilof was also very celebrated and greatly beloved. When he died in 1844, children of all classes united in contributions for a statue in his memory. It illustrates on its pedestal two of his fables and various animals of which he wrote.

The subjoined life of *Æsop* is from the introduction to the English edition, by George T. Townsend. There is little to interest children in it, except the fact that for so many centuries the stories were handed down by tradition or manuscript, and that they have been known to every generation of people. Other facts may also be simply pictured illustrative of his life and time.