

# **AMERICAN YARNS AND FABLES**

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American Yarns and Fables by W. Phillips Thompson

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**W. PHILLIPS THOMPSON**

**AMERICAN YARNS  
AND FABLES**



AMERICAN  
YARNS & FABLES

BY

W. PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

LONDON  
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO.  
LIVERPOOL  
EDWARD HOWELL.

1878.

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## PREFACE.

THESE Poems were not designed for publication, but at the request of numerous friends they have been printed.

Most of them were composed for amusement while travelling during a long series of horseback journeys in America.





CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
TAKING THINGS LITERALLY ... ..	5
BOAT SONG ... ..	8
HENRY CLARE ... ..	11
WRECK OF THE GRAND HOTEL ... ..	14
THE PIOUS STRANGER ... ..	17
MAHOMET ... ..	20
FABLES:—	
THE BRAVER'S COURTSHIP ... ..	21
EPITAPH OF A DORMOUSE ... ..	26
THE BEAVER EMPIRE ... ..	26
THE FAIRY AND THE CLUBMOSS ... ..	28
THE GRUMBLING HORSE ... ..	30
THE PONY AND THE HAYSTACK ... ..	31
THE BUSHVINE AND THE PINE ... ..	32
THE CAT, THE RAT, AND THE MICE ... ..	34
THE WOLVES AND THE SPRINGBOB ... ..	35
THE BEAVERS AND THEIR HUNTER ... ..	37
THE ROBIN AND SPARROW ... ..	39
THE OAK AND THE WORM ... ..	41
THE QUARRELSOME OWLS ... ..	42
THE BEE AND THE BUTTERFLY ... ..	43
THE RABBIT AND THE PORCUPINE ... ..	45
THE COCOA-NUT ... ..	46
JOHNNY AND THE DOG ... ..	48
THE LEARNED CROCODILE ... ..	49
THE BEAR AND THE WOLVERINE ... ..	52
THE BEAR AND THE WOLVES ... ..	54
THE DUCKS AND GEESE ... ..	56
THE KING OF THE BEAVERS ... ..	57
JACKO AND THE CORN ... ..	59
JACK AND THE RATTLESNAKE... ..	60
A CANARY'S VALENTINE ... ..	62
VERA PAZ ... ..	65



### TAKING THINGS LITERALLY.

*"Answer a fool according to his folly."*—(Proverbs.)

With frame of Nature's noblest mould,  
For hero deeds he seemed designed ;  
O'er all his face ye well might trace  
The impress of a master mind ;  
Yet in the paths of worldly fame  
John Dobson ne'er had sought to stray ;  
With quiet zeal and heavenly flame,  
The Quaker preacher held his way.  
Yet once he felt a great concern—  
His heart within him seemed to burn  
In Christian love to travelling go  
And preach the Word round Buffalo.  
There lived within that frontier town  
A sad young rake named Sampson Brown.  
It chanced they met ; said Sampson—" Friend,  
Do you and your queer sect pretend  
To *literal* take the old command—  
' If any man shall raise his hand,  
And smite you on the cheek—that you  
Should meekly turn the other too ? ' "