

THE BOOK OF FABLES.

SELECTIONS FROM

ÆSOP,

AND OTHER AUTHORS.

EXPLAINED, AND ADAPTED TO POPULAR USE.

BY EDWARD BALDWIN.

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With One Hundred Characteristic Engravings.  
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“That I do, mother! I never heard anybody talk more sensibly or more to the purpose. But then that sly jade Sloth, she tells me how pleasant it would be to take another nap, and how comfortably one can think over all one’s affairs as one lies in bed. Then she pats my pillow, and smoothes my bed-clothes, that I can never have the courage to get up.”

“Son, son!” said the mother, “you see now all she says is nothing to the purpose, and that the whole strength of the argument is on the other side.”

“I am quite of your opinion,” said the young man. “Oh, never think that I give quarter to her wheedling, or forget any of the arguments of Industry: I am too fair a judge for that. But the worst of it is, mother, that they have such a vast deal to say for themselves, and I am obliged to show my fairness by hearing them out, that, by the time the arguments are well concluded, it is time to come to dinner.”

“Learn from this, son,” said the mother, “that it is the first business of life to come to an early and firm resolution. He that continues long in uncertainty, and vibrates and varies between one plan and another, will make as ill a figure, and prove as useless a member of the community, as if he came to the worst and most vicious resolution that could be devised.”

The son could make no reply to so just a remark; so he confessed he was conquered, and promised that for the future he would rise as early every morning as his mother herself could desire.

