

BOOKS FOR THE BAIRNS.—XXVI.  
EDITED BY W. T. STEAD.



# ÆSOP'S FABLES

(NEW SERIES).

WITH 152 SKETCHES

BY  
BRINSLEY LE FANU.

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# THE FABLES OF ÆSOP.

(SECOND SERIES.)

## THE PEDLAR'S ASS;

OR, THE DODGER OUTDODGED.

A PEDLAR had been to the sea-shore to buy salt. His way home lay across a stream, into which his Ass fell by accident. But he rose up again with his load considerably lighter, as the water had melted the salt. The Pedlar went back and refilled his panniers with a larger quantity of salt than before. When he came again to the stream, the Ass fell down on purpose in the same spot, and, regaining his feet with the weight of his load much lightened, brayed triumphantly as if he had obtained what he desired. But the Pedlar saw through the trick, and drove the donkey for the third time to the coast, where he bought a cargo of sponges instead of salt. The Ass, when he reached the stream, fell down as before, but this time the sponges becoming swollen with the water, his load was greatly increased; and thus his trick recoiled on himself, for he carried on his back a doubled burden.



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