



EASTERN
FABLES

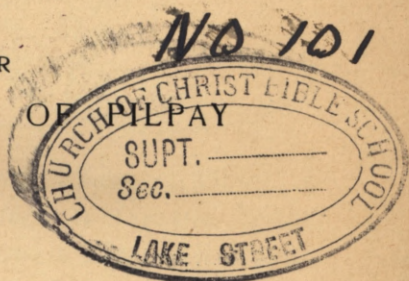


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EASTERN FABLES

OR
THE FABLES OF



WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



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PREFACE



THE Fables of Pilpay, or Bidpai, to use the form nearest the Arabic, have enjoyed a remarkable reputation in the East, and from time to time have been translated into Western languages. In the record of books which have had a wide circulation, we are apt to think only of those which have been produced in or accepted by Christianity and Western civilization, and yet, with the exception of the Bible, there is probably no work, we are told, that has been translated into so many languages, and at so early an epoch, as the collection of tales which passes by the title of the Fables of Bidpai, or Pilpay.

The earliest form in which they appear is in the Pantcha-tantra and Hitopadesa of the Sanskrit. Either from these or some antecedent form the



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