



THE  
FABLES OF AESOP

COMPILED FROM  
THE BEST ACCEPTED SOURCES

*With Sixty Illustrations*

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# ÆSOP'S FABLES.

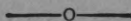


## THE WOLF AND THE LAMB.

ONE hot day a wolf came to quench his thirst at a clear brook that ran down the side of a hill. By chance a young lamb stood there. The wolf had a wish to eat her, but felt some qualms; so for a plea he made out that the lamb was his foe. "Stand off from the banks, sir," said he, "for as you tread them you stir mud in the stream, and all I can get to drink is thick and foul." The young lamb said, in a mild tone, that she did not see how that could be the case, as the brook ran down hill to her from the spot where he stood. "But," said the wolf,

## THE LAMB AND THE WOLF.

A WOLF pursued a lamb, which fled for refuge to a certain temple. The wolf called out to him and said, "The priest will slay you in sacrifice, if he should catch you," on which the lamb replied, "It would be better for me to be sacrificed in the temple, than to be eaten by you."



## THE GNAT AND THE LION.

A GNAT came and said to a lion, "I do not the least fear you, nor are you stronger than I am. For in what does your strength consist? You can scratch with your claws, and bite with your teeth—so can a woman in her quarrels. I repeat that I am altogether more powerful than you; and if you doubt it, let us fight and see who will conquer." The gnat, having sounded his horn, fastened itself upon the lion, and stung him on the nostrils and the parts of the face devoid of hair. The lion, trying to crush him, tore himself with his claws, until he punished himself severely. The gnat thus prevailed over the lion, and, buzzing about in a song of triumph, flew away. But shortly afterwards he became entangled in the meshes of a cobweb, and was eaten by a spider. He greatly lamented his fate, saying, "Woe is me! that I, who can wage war successfully with the hugest beast, should perish myself from this spider, the most inconsiderable of insects!"