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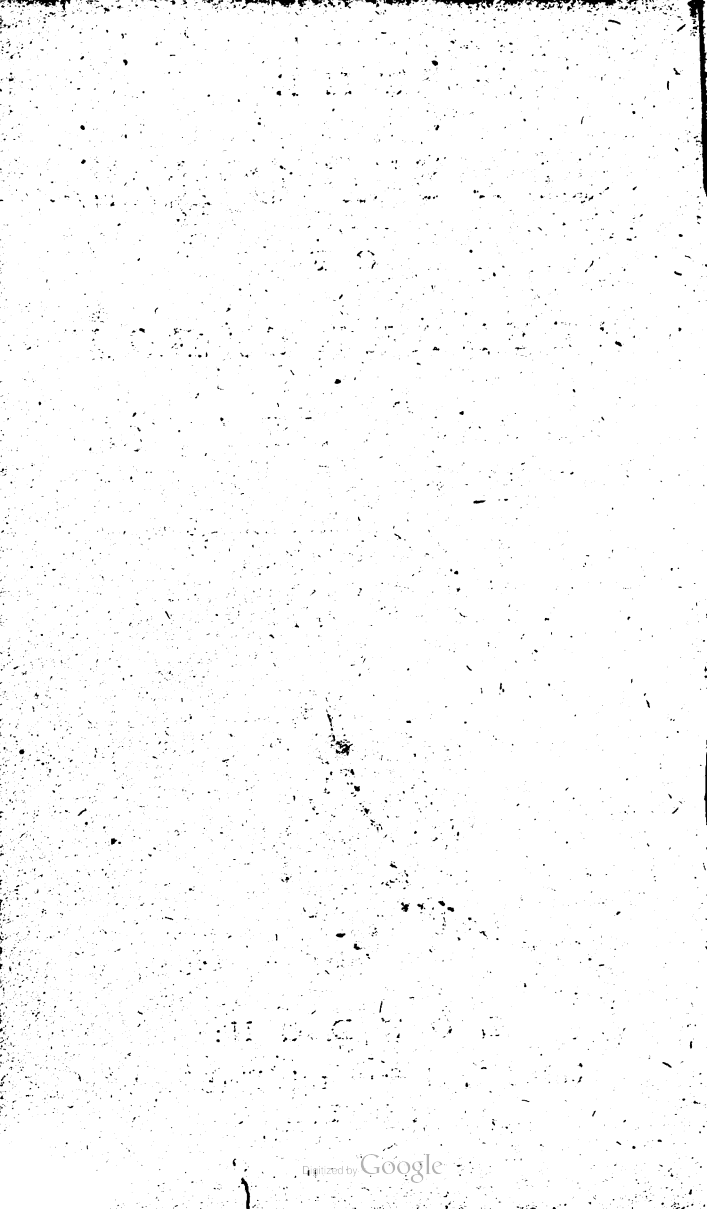
T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
R E Y N A R D the F O X,
B R U I N the B E A R, &c.

*Painters have oft sly REYNARD shown,
With Goose a pick-a-pack;
But ne'er till now a FOX was known
To mount on Goose's Back.*



L O N D O N:

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MDCCLVI.





T H E

P R E F A C E.

AS it is incontestably true that public works necessarily undergo a public censure; and that howsoever diligent or careful a writer is, when ever his works are given to the world,

A 2

or

The P R E F A C E.

or exposed to the view of all, he shall meet with praise or dispraise, censure or approbation, more frequently according to the degree of understanding or affection of the reader and critic, than according to the *worth* or *invalidity*, merit or demerit of what he presents.

Therefore since I beg not the patronage of any, though I might furnish out a pompous dedication to all the *Foxes* in *England*, I would not by any mean or means be misunderstood, and so causelessly censured as an impertinent writer. I have to the subsequent *work* (which I at first intended

The P R E F A C E.

intended to have committed to the prefs without *moral* or *exposition* of my own) added the *moral* to most of the chapters, lest any man should be so disingenuous as to wrest my words or meaning to a sense contrary to my true and proper intent. I, in the following history, aim not at the reproach or slander of any *man*, or *men*, under the feigned representation of *beast* or *beasts*, and only desire thy content and recreation in the following sheets, where thou hast here, courteous and friendly reader, the pleasant and delightful history of *Reynard the Fox*, which
is,

The P R E F A C E.

is, in an humble and low stile, couched to the natures of the beasts it treateth on, and beareth in it much excellent morality and hidden wisdom, worthy both thy regard in reading, and thine application in the course and commencement of thy life and actions. For the aim at which it bendeth is the overthrow of vice and corruption, and the advancement of the good and virtuous. Now forasmuch as it hath hitherto flown into the world (like *Sibyls* loose papers) covered with much obscurity and darkness; I have for thy more ease and contentment, to almost every chapter, annexed the

The P R E F A C E.

the morals and expositions in such dark places, as may hold thy judgment, in seeking to find out a labyrinth so dark and curious. A labour which I doubt not but it will prove both pleasant and wholesome, since as a friendly guide it will keep thy meditations from wandring astray; and as a pleasant companion hold thee with such delightful discourse that thy journey therein will neither be long nor irksome; at which end, if it arrive with a fair safety, as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, which is to yield thee both pleasure and profit. If any one be offended, let

The P R E F A C E.

let his offence be to himself; my intent was not to give distaste but delight. Nor have I in the foregoing history let slip any expressions tending to the vitiating or debauching of youth, but have rather couched my words so, as the intelligent may be profited, and the disingenuous not injured. Therefore I desire this my labour may be as well taken as meant; and if so, I may be encouraged to divulge another piece full as instructive and entertaining, as soon as time and opportunity will permit.

Farewel.

beast of his dominions should attend his Majesty to celebrate the *nuptials* of the *prince* of *Libidinous*, his eldest *cub*, whom he had *honourably* matched with a *princess* of the *forest* of *Bareith*. Every *beast* of every denomination gladly obeyed the summons, only *Reynard* the *Fox* excepted. The beasts assembled, his Majesty from the *throne* made a most *gracious speech*, which *Brūin* the *Bear*, then *chancellor* of his *exchequer*, delivered in his Majesty's name, in the following words.

My *Lords* and *Commons*, It is his Majesty's pleasure to assemble you together to acquaint you that he has, *with the advice of his council*, matched the *Prince* of *Libidinous* with the *Princess* *Ravenosa-furioso-gota-forestisima-Sax-plus-venereoso* of the forest of *Bareith*. That as his Majesty takes no *rule of action* from any of the *kings of the earth*, he has nothing to ask of you either to *enlarge* her *dower*, or even as a *congregational present* upon this *joyful occasion*; his Majesty having in his *royal bounty* settled upon them already forests sufficient to range in. That though her *fortune* was but *small* she was of *illustrious blood*, and very nearly related to his Majesty. That as his Majesty was willing, for the *happiness* of his *brutes*, to keep the *succession* in the *true blood* of the *Lions*, his Majesty thought proper to communicate to you, his *trusty* and *well*
be-

beloved subjects, the alliance he had made, that his Majesty's throne might never want an issue of the true breed.

His Majesty, at his own expence, having provided a sufficient quantity of acorns, fruits and vegetables, feasted his subjects for seven days; (another indication that he took no rule of action from the kings of the earth) during which time numberless complaints were exhibited against the Fox, which Isgrim the Wolf began, by acquainting his Majesty that Reynard the Fox had with incredible subtilty and art crept into his house, defiled his chaste and virtuous wife, and pissed upon all his children, with many other grievous and heavy injuries; and therefore as his Majesty was the very fountain of justice and mercy, he expected redress. Cur-tise the Hound seconded this complaint by asserting, that in a very severe season, when he was almost famished, the Fox most treacherously stole his pudding. The Cat hearing this complaint, with fire in her eyes and anger in her countenance, springs nimbly forward, and kneeling before the king, accused the hound of having stolen that pudding from her, almost in the moment she herself had stolen it from a neighbouring mill; and heated only by the pleasure of revenge, pleaded strongly for the Fox; which the Panther hearing, as warmly opposed, ac-

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cusing the *Fox* as a *thief*, a *murderer*, a *ravisher*, &c. &c. and taking the *Hare* by the *leg* brought him forward. Behold, says he, my liege, your worthy subject, whom your Majesty has lately been graciously pleased to appoint for a *commission* of the *peace*, and who, to qualify himself for that *high office*, applied to his kinsman the *Fox* to teach him to *read* and *write his name* correctly, but the treacherous *Fox*, under colour of friendship, would have *stripped* him of his *skin* and swallowed him entirely up, had I not timely interposed. Sir *Keyward's* grandfather, my liege, was a *brave* and stout *Hare*, none better at a retreat, and if your Majesty is pleased to prefer him to command, if his heart fails in an engagement his heels may carry him off, though I believe a *peaceable* employment would suit him best. My Lord *Panther*, says *Isgrim*, you have spoken well and wisely. O my lord the King, if thus in contempt of all your laws, the wicked, because they are great, are suffered with impunity, how may posterity bewail the time, or *future Foxes* trample on your Majesty's subjects! the benefits of peace must be precarious while little beasts become a prey to great ones.

While he yet spake, Sir *Chanticleer* the *Cock* with his *two wives*, the good hens *Motley* and *Clackwell*, slowly advanced in funeral

neral procession, cackling and crying most mournfully, while four young hens bare the bier with the body of their dead sister thereon. Sir *Chanticleer* kneeling before the King, exhibited his complaint against the *Fox*. Most gracious sovereign, says he, I had eight sons and seven daughters, hatched by my wives at once; my sons were valiant and my daughters fair; but alas! neither beauty or valour could secure them from the wiles of *Reynard the Fox*, insomuch that of fifteen children I have only these four left: his frequent attacks by open force were as frequently repulsed; until at length having recourse to lies and stratagems, he so wrought upon my easy belief that I walked with my flock fearless of any danger, which fatal credulity has undone me; for going with my children beyond my usual bounds, the treacherous *Fox* who lay in ambush for us, suddenly seized one of my children, and bore him quite away: The sweetness of which morsel was such that no vigilance could ever after guard against him: And yesterday this my daughter by hot pursuit was rescued from his jaws, as he was stealing off. I ask for justice, my most gracious sovereign, who now stand here a fatal warning to unwary subjects, by whom let every fowl and beast be taught, that evil

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minds, with ease, may work by craft what
open force or violence could never attain.

The MORAL.

Howsoever a vicious man persuades himself that he may escape punishment, by absenting himself from the presence of the magistrate; yet he deceives himself, and by contempt animates his enemies to be more bold in their complaints against him, as appears herein. By the fable of the *Cock* is shewn, that when wicked men cannot compass their designs by violence or open force, they study deceit and shifts to intangle their enemies, so working upon the easy belief of the simple, makes them many times ship themselves into rough seas, where there is no help from shipwreck, as the foolish *Cock* did to believe the subtil *Fox*. Also we hence may learn, that though an evil man some time stands excused of faults, yet his sins will so dog him at the heels that he shall not escape discovery.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

NOW *Grimbard the Brock*, who was nephew to the *Fox*, moved with the accusations against his uncle, thus addressed the King. My sovereign liege, it is even proverbially known that malice never speaks well of any. My uncle, a stranger at the court and out of favour, stands accused before your Majesty. I wish his accusers had the integrity to have acknowledged their provocations. None ever trespass in their own opinion. Had my uncle the good fortune to oppose you here, and be as high in favour; your *necks* I fear would be as much in danger as his now seems to be. Ye join your force against an helpless creature whom heretofore ye have often bit and torn; were ye as forward to accuse each other, your crimes, I fear, would wear too deep a dye to hope for mercy. Can ye forget the place which he threw from the fishmonger's window, of which ye defrauded him, as noble as ye are? Yes, ye defrauded him, devouring it alone, scarce leaving him the bones: He run the risque of stealing it while ye kept back for fear, though ye enjoyed the booty. The sitch of bacon, too, of goodly taste, and which he likewise stole, ye gave him not a

§ THE PLEASANT HISTORY OF

bit of, but courtier like indeed, with specious promises and shew of friendship, ye laughed him fairly out of it, though dearly had he like to have paid for it; for being caught by the owner in a sack he hardly escaped with his life. What makes oppression, or a villainous act, less criminal in the powerful or the wealthy than the poor? The many injuries, *Isgrim*, you have done my uncle are now too tedious to relate; and as to his intimacy with your wife, it was long before you married her, when she was as forward on her part; it can therefore be no injury to you as happening long before your acquaintance with her; and is a common case with many beasts, as nobly born, perhaps, and highly bred as you can boast to be, though wisdom prudently conceals it. As to *Keyword*, my uncle as his preceptor might chastise him. I have often heard my uncle say he would have *qualified* him for his *place*, as it required no *great degree* of understanding, but that it was as difficult to teach the incorrigible fool to spell, even in any tolerable manner, as if he had been a *beau* among *mankind*. And as to *Curtise* the *Hound*, who had just stolen the *pudding*; whoever can discern between *right* and *wrong* must confess it is not criminal, or any infringement on the *law* to take *stolen goods* from a thief: My
uncle

whole in that has but fulfilled the law. The talent of taking from others by dire oppression, and without any colour of justice, he has never practised, though I have often heard him say he had seen frequent examples of it in a noble lord among mankind, in whose court he stood chained an unhappy prisoner for some months, where he had it in his power, being in high favour with the lord, to be a friend to the Hounds about him; which he was without distinction, though some were of the fox and some of a mongrel breed. I would also have Sir Chanticleer remember how often he has alarmed the village and raised them on my uncle, as he innocently passed by without injury to him, and I assure your Majesty, that not long since he was so torn and bit, through Sir Chanticleer's warning, that hardly he escaped; as his mangled carcase can witness to this hour. Revenge is sweet to all. My uncle may have faults, but I assure your Majesty that unprovoked he never injures any.

The King who heard him with great attention stood rampant on his throne, shaking his beard and throwing his tail over his back, roars with a very audible voice, I am sorry to find that even vice is not without its advocate. Shall lewdness find a pleader in its cause from either wealth or

greatness? Shall *we* who have preserved our integrity from the creation, who have never *transgressed* our *Maker's laws* take example by *man* in whose unhappy world I fear your uncle has been too conversant? Shall I the monarch of the *beasts* * * * *

* * * * *

or any vassal beast of mine thrive by hypocrisy, grow by oppression, prey on his fellows, or increase by frauds? Betray his friend for gain, or murder him for reward? Is there a *court* within my whole dominions to litigate a cause? Make black look white, or white look black, just as the *pleader* pleases? *One law* is ours as given us at the first, *unaltered* and *unbroken*. Too much of *man* I fear is in your uncle. His deep designs, devilish devices, artful stratagems, and mischievous intentions too plainly speak it; and I blush to think that even you his nephew can plead in his defence, since to excuse bad actions is in some measure to partake of the guilt. Shame and dishonour ever will redound to those who varnish crimes, or hold the guilty free. It is the task of *man*, let us disdain it. Your daughter being dead, Sir *Chanticleer*, is past recall, and shall have funeral honours. All your complaints shall have redress, they shall be laid before our *privy council*, mean while 'tis fit we summon *Roynard* to answer for his conduct.

The

The MORAL.

The *Lion* having in his speech given the moral of this chapter I shall only add, that the *Brock* becomes an advocate either because the *Fox* was his near relation, or because he was rich and able to pleasure him; and it may be observed that the insinuation of the advocate excusing the *Foxes* faults, and cloaking the ills he had done by pretending he had repeated provocations to injuries, may allude to weak reasoning, soon bring a good man to belief and forgiveness. By this chapter we also learn, that those who excuse bad actions may see how such offences return to disgrace, because evil mens vices being disclosed, excuses are their shame who make them, as appears by the reprimand given by the *Lion* to the *Brock*: Also in the *Lion* may be seen the effects of a good disposition, which is expressed in his disdain of a slavish imitation of any nation or fashion, &c. as well as the funeral honours promised the hen which is a part of satisfaction for the grief her kindred endured, and the hope of redress from every other grievance.

C H A P. III.

THE King by the advice of his *Privy council*, dispatch'd Sir *Bruin*, the *Bear*, to summon *Reynard* to appear at court without excuse; with a strict caution, however, to be well guarded against his policy. The *Bear* sets out incog: as vain as a young *Nobleman* at *Paris*, but as ignorant as a country-justice; in full confidence that his policy would be an over-match for the *Fox*, whom he soon found at his chief seat or castle, called *Bramble-brier-Hall*. They met with great politeness and little sincerity on both sides, and many compliments passed. Sir *Bruin* unwilling to lose time in a matter of such vast moment, shewing his *credentials*, immediately entered upon business; in which he acquitted himself with great ease and very learnedly; concluding that he was very proud of the honour of being employed by his Majesty upon so important an occasion. The *Fox* replied that he was extremely proud of the honour of seeing his kinsman at his castle; that he was glad he stood in such high favour at court, where his merit, politeness, and manners must undoubtedly have gained him the greatest confidence and honour; that he was sorry any cause of
complaint

complaint lay against himself, who was as innocent as any *beast* alive. That he did not retire from court thro' any disgust or disregard for his Majesty the *Lion*, but his talents not qualifying him sufficiently, as he wanted that dissimulation, flattery, and slavishness of temper so essential to a courtier; however, he said, he would attend his majesty, and tho' a very unskilful orator, would plead for himself as well as he was able, where he doubted not but the integrity of his heart and the justice of his cause would *honourably acquit* him; he added, that eating too freely of an honey-comb had of late so disordered him that he was very unable to travel, notwithstanding he would set out with his uncle (for so he called the *Bear*) in the morning, if he would do him the honour of his company that night; the best we can procure, said he, at *Bramble-brier-Hall* shall be your food. That honey-comb you mentioned, dear nephew, said the *Bear*, is a feast for an emperor; I ask no other food, supply me with that and bind me yours forever. Are you fond of honey, uncle, replies the *Fox*? I am glad I have it in my power to feast you; let us walk then to a neighbouring house, a carpenter's by trade, who is master of as much honey as you can devour in seven years. Nephew, replies the *Bear*, giving him his *paw*, I shall endeavour to

deserve

deserve your kindness; fear not to attend the king; I'll stop the mouths of all your adversaries; no complaints shall hurt you; we courtiers never regard what crimes have been committed, but acquit or condemn according to interest. Now they had reached *Landford's* house, for so the carpenter was called, in whose yard lay a large oak, which he had begun to cleave, and in which the wedges were still sticking. *Uncle*, says the *Fox*, within this oak is such a store of honey as may suffice a thousand; but be careful, my ever *dear*, and ever *honoured uncle*, you will find a passage at this open end—Eat moderately pray, for fear of a surfeit. Fear not, nephew, said the *Bear*, thrusting in his head and both his feet as far as he was able, which when the *Fox* perceiving he instantly ran and pulled out the wedges, and the tree closing locked him fast. The *Fox* could now no longer contain himself; and laughing ready to split his sides, derides and mocks the *Bear*. Is the honey-comb good, uncle, he cries? you look for all the world like a thief-catcher in the pillory—Will no *bail* be taken?—The *Fox* was going on when he spied *Landford* which obliged him to sheer off, whom the roaring of the *Bear* had by this time aroused, and who finding him caught in the cleft, raised all the village, who coming armed with all manner of domestic weapons, laid so furiously

furiouſly upon poor Sir *Bruin* that he lay ſome time for dead; but ſummoning all his ſtrength to his aid, with one ſudden ſpring he diſengaged himſelf, leaving his ears behind and ſtripping the ſkin from off his head and feet. The terror of his countenance was now of more avail than his ſtrength; and roaring an hideous yell, as well as he was able leaping among a croud of female ſpectators plunged into a deep river which ran hard by, and into which numbers of the women, endeavouring to avoid him, alſo fell. This was a lucky incident for Sir *Bruin*, who ſwimming in the ſtrength of the ſtream found means to eſcape, while his enemies were buſy in the preſervation of their friends, and who with much difficulty and great fatigue arrived at length at court, to the great conſternation and amazement of the *King* and courtiers; who loudly condoling his miſfortune, could not however but applaud the *honourable retreat* he had made; his great *puiffance* and intrepidity in maintaining the *combat ſo long* againſt ſuch *unequal* numbers; but blaming his imprudence in *expoſing* his *perſon ſo ſerviceable to the foreſts* to ſuch imminent danger. He loudly inveighed againſt the *Fox*, whoſe *pretended friendſhip* drew him into ſo ſad a dilemma, and then deſerted him in the *battle*, leaving him expoſed to the *fury of his enemies*. Sir *Bruin*, ſays the ſagacious

sagacious *King*, I swear by my crown I will take vengeance on the subtil *Reynard*. What can strength avail, says he, against a treacherous foe who works by stratagem? After some *debate in council* it was resolved however, to summon *Reynard* once more, by *Sir Tibert the Cat*, who was appointed to go upon this embassy as well for his keen wit, his gravity and wisdom, as the high esteem in which he always stood with the *Fox*. The *Cat* would gladly have been excused, and entreated his Majesty to appoint some beast of greater abilities to go upon so important a *trust*, alledging that himself was too *feeble* for the execution of a matter of such importance; for if the great *Sir Bruin*, says he, could not in his mighty strength prevail; how can I who am scarce able to encounter with a *rat*? It is your wisdom, not your strength, *Sir Tibert*, I employ, replies the *King*; I have confidence you will not like *Sir Bruin* neglect your *public duty* for your *private ends*. Your wisdom and integrity I trust, for *craft* alone must counter-balance *craft*.

The MORAL.

By the *Bear's* willingness to fetch the *Fox* is expressed how apt a malicious nature is to be employed in any thing which may offend his adversary, and how commonly such employments

ployments miscarry; and in the encounter between them is expressed the diffimulation of two wicked persons, each plotting to do the other mischief; wherein, tho' the wisest commonly gets the victory at first, yet the just cause prevails in the end; also in the *Bear's* greediness to eat honey is expressed the lascivious inconstancy of a loose and unrestrained nature, that for a moment's enjoyment of their own pleasures quite forget the business and cares they have in hand; and it may be observed how artfully wisdom is apt to cast out those baits of delight, which being once swallowed, with greediness, do ever choke the swallower, as appears by the *Bear*; and also by the cruelty used to him by the common people is expressed how when a bad man is once snared in his vices, every person of what degree soever, is ready to prosecute and revenge himself for the ills he has received. By the *Cat's* unwillingness to go is expressed how loth a wise man is to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do of a reach far beyond them, yet when authority commands they must obey, whatever dangers may attend it.

C H A P. IV.

THE *Cat* finding all excuses vain, sets out, passing chearfully along, and *purring* as he went until he saw a single *Maggie* flying on his left side, (which, being well skilled in augury) he knew portended ill success; and which incident greatly depressed his spirits. However, arming himself with better hope, he soon arrived at *Bramble-brier Hall*. The *Fox* seeing him coming received him at the gate with great politeness and complacency of manners, and after the ceremony of greeting was over, Sir *Tibert* advertised the *Fox* of his imminent danger, which nothing but his speedy appearance at court could avert; which point he greatly urged and recommended to him; adding that his Majesty was in high wrath at his treatment of the *Bear*, and rebellious defiance of his last summons. The *Fox* being a great *sophist* argued very learnedly for himself, but was extremely proud of the honour the King had done him in sending his cousin *Tibert* without proceeding to violence; that it was his indispensable duty to wait upon his Majesty, and that as early as Sir *Tibert* pleased in the morning he would accompany him to court, excusing himself for not instantly

stantly setting out, being, he said, a little indisposed by bad *digestion*, having eaten too freely of *Mice* the night before; a delicate food, he said, but new to him, which were in great plenty in his neighbours barn. The *Cat* hearing this was soon prevailed upon to stay till morning, and it was agreed they should go to the barn, where he might feast himself, *Mice* being his favourite dish, richer in value, he said, than any dish, even the *Epicures* of *Ludstow-forest*, ever invented in their greatest *extravagance*. They soon arrived at the barn, when coming to a hole, the *Fox* desired Sir *Tibert* to enter by that passage (shewing the hole) Sir *Tibert* as a stranger desired him to shew the way, but the *Fox* would by no means use a *Cat* of his dignity with such ill manners, and complainantly insisted upon his leading the way; and after long ceremony on both sides for precedency, Sir *Tibert* as gallantly and courageously as **** upon the *Quarter-deck*, springs forward, but finds too late that the *Fox* only led him into a snare. A masked battery was not more fatal than this hidden noose, which in fact was planted for *Reynard* himself, whom the enemy thought to have surprized in it, for having stolen a fat hen the preceding night; but by his vigilance and watchfulness he discovered their motions. If his joy was great upon his conquest over
the

the *Bear* it was doubly so upon this occasion, as *wisdom* he thought more difficult to *encounter* than strength. The unhappy *Cat* hangs now by the neck, a sad example, or rather warning to the wisest not to give credit to a designing enemy however fair the pretext he makes. * * * * *

* * * * * The mournful cries the *Cat* had made, now alarmed the family, who rushing upon the defenceless *Sir Tibert* laid upon him till they broke the cord in which he hung, and he lay for dead; the *Fox* having retired as before upon the enemy's approach. Happy for the *Cat* that a heavy blow aimed at himself while he lay sprawling, alighted upon the head of one of his antagonists and brought him also to the ground, which diverted the fury of the *battle* from his quarter, and gave him an opportunity of retreating, which he did in the best manner he was able; halting and tumbling until he reached the court, (having lost an *Eye* in the battle,) where he exhibited his complaint against the *Fox*. He met with great pity from his Majesty and the courtiers, and being of very low estate, for the support of his family, dignity and honour, he had some thoughts of opening an *Office of intelligence*, to which an objection was made as well upon account of his having lost but *one Eye* as the great frauds and impositions he must commit upon the public, to make it

of

of emolument, by recommending good servants to bad places, and bad servants to good, that neither might stay long with any beast, but both return with a fresh fee to his office again. So the King after a gentle reprimand gave him a *commission* to prey upon the *Mice*, settling them as a pension upon him and his posterity; telling him that he was sorry to find the wisest of his subjects was not proof against the corruption of his enemies.

The MORAL.

By sending the *Cat* to fetch the *Fox* is expressed the care of governors, that when they have been deceived by the pride and ostentation of those whom they employ'd and thought discreet; that then they seek out those who are known wise, because wisdom is even circumvented by greater wisdom; and by the *Cat* being ensnared by the *Fox* is expressed how when wise men trust their enemies, or give credit to reconciled friends, they evermore miscarry in their designs, and should therefore be a lesson to every wise man not to grow fond of any thing in his enemy's power, how agreeable soever it be either with his nature or his palate. For the baits of an enemy are only gilded pills, fair to look on, but bitter to the taste.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

A Council being called, it was again resolved to summon *Reynard the Fox* in due form the third time, by *Grimbard the Brock* his sister's son, who in obedience to the King's command humbly takes leave at court, and soon arrives at *Bramble-brier-Hall*, where he found his uncle and aunt sporting with their young *Cubs*; and after greeting &c. he strongly intreats his uncle to obey this his Majesty's third summons, telling him there was else but one day between him and ruin; that he doubted not thro' his wisdom and discretion, and the interest of his friends at court, he would triumph over all his enemies. Nephew, replies the *Fox*, tho' I had some thoughts of going to—— Why to—— replies the *Brock*? there is so high a tax upon *day* there, says the *Fox*, that *light* must be a burden to them; besides, I am informed they are about to lay another upon all the *Canine race*, so these quadrupedes, the enemies to my rest may soon be quite extinct there, where, they say, I have but * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * to be naturalized; Oh! but 'twere madness, cousin *Reynard*, says the *Brock*, to go to a country where there is so high a fine set upon your head. Sir *Keyward's* friends, says
Reynard,

Reynard, have entered into an *association*: which secures me against any danger upon that score, by strictly prohibiting the use of arms to any but themselves; besides I have a name-sake in high favour there, and notwithstanding, cousin, I will wave all these advantages and obey this summons; not so much to answer offences as to convince the court how much they stand in need of me in the cabinet; the weakness of whose counsels I may find a time to speak of; so taking leave of his *wife* and *cubs* immediately set forward, and soon arriving at court was arrested by the King's orders. Numberless complaints were brought against him by almost every *beast* and *fowl* of the *lakes* and *forests*, but he like an impudent malefactor, with a heart full of deceit and countenance full of smiles, begins his defence, which tho' prolix I shall give the reader in his own words as follows.

The MORAL.

In sending the *Brock* to fetch the *Fox* is shewn, that when the vicious cannot be overtaken and brought to answer; then it is meet to use their own weapons against them, and with policy, which cannot be more successfully executed than by employing their kindred, and such as they most dearly affect; to persuade

persuade them, because affection is ever a most prevailing orator. And in the *Fox* his arriving at court, is shewed, that when a malefactor is brought before the justice, that then is the fit time for all who have been injured to utter their complaints, because then only redress is to be had.



C H A P. VI.

MOST gracious sovereign, tho' I stand accused before your Majesty, and that fresh indictments are now brought against me by the *Ass*, the *Camel*, the *Goose*, the *Cormorant*, the *Rook*, the *Coney*, the *Weasel*, the *Sheep*, and others of your Majesty's household, who have the grace of speech and art of colouring, which gifts I want, the truth I will speak with freedom. Tho' long a stranger to the flattery of courts and force of rhetoric, bold in that truth and conscious of my innocence I doubt not to approve myself the truest servant and most faithful subject of any in the forest, and shall, however mine innocence may plead, most willingly submit to stand or fall beneath your royal pleasure. I once was gay, and happy too at court, basked in the sunshine of your royal favour,
when

when I stood fair for the most high preferment, till envious *greatness* jealous of my fortune drove me far from thence, where first I learned however the thefts and murders, rapes and robberies which I have since committed. The *Wolf* my uncle who was then your treasurer, first taught me how to steal, my thefts were petty when compared to his; mine he would share however, but always kept his own. *Reynard* I know you well, replies the *King*; you have a dissembling and a traitor's heart. My Liege, says *Reynard*, had I been a traitor, I had not been impeached as now I am; the crimes of which I stand accused are but the colourings of their revenge who seek my ruin, but for being loyal. * * * * * The many complaints however laid before your Majesty, I must confess, carry too much truth, for tho' I blush to speak it, there are few beasts in the forest whom I have not in some point offended; yet I hope it will be some alleviation of my crimes to say they were no natural inclination in me, who in my youth was noted for my innocence; having sported with the *lambs* whole days, still leaving them uninjured, until at length, oh! dire disaster, and unlucky minute, unhappily I bit one; the tempting morsel had so sweet a relish that, for

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my

my life, I could not since forbear them. The tender kids whose bleatings drew me to them have not less been sufferers. Pardon, that the sad remembrance draws my tears. Unmardned yet however, nor quite abandoned, I met the *Wolf* beneath the shelter of a hollow tree; who tracing our lineage in a line direct, proved beyond doubt himself to be my uncle. A fatal revelation sure to me, who well from thence may date the curst commencement of all our thefts and slaughter, curst I may call it since it brings me now to stand this shameful accusation here. We grew companions in all kinds of ills, his paws were stronger and more dyed in blood, his thefts were greater and more frequent far than mine, who wanted strength, could ever be; and for which reason too my share was very trifling still of all the booty, never more than what he pleased, when satisfied himself, in his good pleasure to bestow upon me. He still is powerful, and has friends at court, where partial justice ever blind to truth is wrested by the great as interest sways. He's opulent withal, and may commit crimes unimpunished, and with impunity, nay unobserved

served and unupbraided for, which by the law is certain death, and never pass unpunished in a poor friendless, helpless beast like me. Happy I thought myself at first, in such a kindred, for my uncle brought me to *court*, where I grew much in favour, where pimping for their highnesses I prospered; and had great prospects of preferment by it, but overweighing envy drove me from it, and now he bears a high commission by whom I was displaced. But even thus, I have not been forgetful of my duty to your Majesty, with whose most gracious *beastliness* I hope past services will have some weight; nor will it be impertinence most humbly now to call them to remembrance, since my counsel was not wanting to give a *gilded Acorn* to the great *Lioness* who ruled the forest, perhaps as nobly as 'twas ever ruled, because she bent her thoughts on feeding the young *Whelp* whose *Sire* was driven from thence for endeavouring to impose by his *peremptory will a new law* upon every beast there; from any *Whelp* like which your Majesty has nothing to fear, tho' the *Tiger* of *Deluce* your implacable foe occasionally may play him at your Majesty as he finds

it best to answer his purpose, and the furtherance of the schemes laid down by my old uncle *Reynard de Fluro*, (the reddest *Fox* of any of our name) for rendering him the univereal monarch of the *Woods*; which schemes having been so often impressed upon the leaves of the trees, I need not take any farther notice of them now. About this time when your Majesty was absent from the forest no beast was louder in your Majesty's behalf than myself; of all the whole assembly of beasts my body was in most danger, for some were continually snarling at me, and twice had they like to have fallen upon me to crush my body; when my cousin, the young *Vulpine*, was driven into the forest only for shewing an olive-leaf in honour of your Majesty. Not a *beast* in the forest had greater inveteracy to your Majesty than the *Wolf* and *Bear*, who in their hearts are most rebellious traitors, and who only for my strict loyalty and steady adherence to your Majesty——The *Fox* was going on accusing them of *bribery* and holding secret correspondence with the *Tiger*, when the general clamour became so loud against him, that the king calling to mind his
past

past services and willing to save him, ennobled him, by giving him a *Daisy* with four *mystical letters* written upon it; by virtue of which he was immediately transported out of their power, having before invested him with the *order* of the *greater Horns*, the noblest *order* among the *beasts*, by tying a blade of grass about his leg, and hanging a *collar* of glittering *pebbles* about his neck, then placing him next himself, the *Fox* was honoured above all the *beasts* of the *forest*.

The MORAL.

By the *Lion* is expressed the lawfulness of justice, and how terrible it is to every offender, especially such as have the guilt of conscience within them. The *Fox's* bold behaviour shews that impudent malefactors, when they are called in question, make audacity their chief guard.

Whatever other moral may be couched in his defence is left to the reader to exercise his judgment upon.



C H A P. VII.

THE King making the *Fox prime minister* gave him several of the most lucrative employments in the *forest*; exhorting him, now he had advanced him, to make a right use of the authority he had given him, by being faithful in his services and strict in his administration of justice; to let every beast of courage, skill and conduct have the preference in employments; * * * * * but above all to propagate his *Geese* and *Ducks*, and keep them in a condition to have the superiority upon the *Lake*, and having an high opinion of his wisdom and conduct gave himself up wholly to his guidance. * * * * *

The *Fox* expressed himself in the warmest terms full of *zeal* and *loyalty*; and tho' he said unworthy of the high honours done him, yet he would ever study by his best services to deserve them. The *Raven* no sooner saw the sudden change of fortune, but she flew to the *Wolf*, *Bear* and *Cat*

Cat to tell the sorrowful tidings. The *Wolf* and *Bear* waited upon his Majesty, but the *Cat* stayed behind, and would gladly run into the same, or even a worse predicament to be friends with the *Fox*, thro' fear of the weight of his displeasure; but the *Wolf* and *Bear* remonstrated so loudly against him, that they were both put under an arrest, until the *Fox* stripping the *Bear* of part of his skin, and the *Wolf* of his shoes, thought proper to set them at liberty. The joyful *Fox* now ruminates his change, reflecting how seldom good fortune comes alone, and that he who so lately would gladly have compounded for his head, was now advanced to the highest dignities. Never was flattery, says he, employed to better purposes. Dissimulation is the road to prosperity. Plain-dealing and honesty are in exile, and covetousness and fraud have usurped their station, &c.

The MORAL.

By the *Wolf* and *Bear* remonstrating against the *Fox* is expressed the violence and malice with which great men pursue their enemies,

enemies, and such from whom they have received injuries, in which they many times rather endanger themselves, than obtain their ends, or gratify their revenge; so blind is wrath and so deformed it makes men who are subject thereto. Part of this chapter is moralized by the *Fox* himself, and part is left to the reader; only it may be added, that by the honour done the *Fox*, may be seen that when policy and wisdom get the upper hand of their enemies it never resteth until it maketh known to the world the greatness of their conquest, as well to extenuate their crimes, as gratify their ambition, and keep their foes in awe with the goodly shows of new grace and favour. By the *Raven* is shewn the jealousy and fear of the weaker sort, and how in their troubles they fly to the heads of faction, and stir them with their own safeties to prevent evils.

By the *Wolf* and *Bear*'s commitment is shewn, that when men complain unseasonably, they ever run themselves into apparent danger and mischief. By stripping the *Bear* of part of his skin, and the *Wolf* of his shoes, is shewn the malice of a revengeful enemy who never thinks his foe weakened enough, until he is utterly undone.

C H A P.



C H A P. VIII.

THE *Fox*, now *Lord Reynard*, in power sufficient to advance his friends and oppress his enemies, draws a crowded levee, is ever at *court*, and to whom alone the King's ear is open; with whom no conference is held, no measures taken, and to whom no *beast* is even introduced without *Lord Reynard*; whose policy soon put him upon seeking means of reconciliation with the *Wolf*, the *Bear*, and the *Cat*, with many others, who in disgust had withdrawn from court, and whom notwithstanding their deadly hatred to him by certain symptoms, he thought not impossible to win to his interest, for however exalted above them for the present, he thought himself not altogether beyond the reach of adversity; and therefore bent his thoughts upon making this disgusted party greater friends than ever they were enemies, which he endeavoured by their promotion as much as he could with

safety to his own honour and grandeur; and well knew that if their preferment came from him, their inveteracy would soon be turned into obsequiousness and love, watching therefore a favourable opportunity of speaking to the king in their behalf, he did it with such wonderful address and art as riveted the King in a fixed opinion of his *loyalty* and *love* for him, and highly pleased with the thought of reconciling his discontented subjects, left the management of that, as well as all other matters, entirely to the care of Lord *Reynard*; who, informing the King he should take such measures as would give a testimony of his Majesty's royal clemency, goodness and mercy, in passing over the errors, opposition and disaffection of some of the chief of his Majesty's subjects, that every *Lion* who should ever after fill the royal throne, should revere his Majesty's reign, and speak of that *administration* with honour. I must do Sir *Isgrim the Wolf*, says he, the justice to confess, notwithstanding his enmity to me, that there is not among all the beasts of the forest, a better *orator*, or a subject of greater abilities, and therefore, says he, if your Majesty will be pleased

pleas'd to make him of your *privy counsel*, and give him some very lucrative employment, your Majesty will find him a most faithful subject. The King sending for Sir *Isgrim* acquainted him, that his *nephew* the Lord *Reynard* had recommended him so strongly, and been so loud in his *praise*, that he could not but take notice of him, and acquainting him what he intended for him, gave him a *daisy*, thereby creating him Earl of *Swimmingplace*, at the same time invested him with the order of the *Lesser Horns*. Now the *Wolf* greedy of honour, perceiving that preferment came thro' Lord *Reynard's* means, addressing himself to the King confessed, he was much ashamed of the discord which happened between Lord *Reynard* and him; that he was very sensible of his error, and (taking Lord *Reynard* by the paw to kiss it) most humbly begged his pardon. The Lord *Reynard* was no less inwardly pleas'd that he had taken one from among the common assembly of beasts, whose mouching had done him much mischief there. Sir *Bruin*, says the King, I shall not forget to honour also, and as for Sir *Tibert* I shall find employment for him, who for his *speed*,
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wisdom, and reach in policy I may probably send into *P—l* or *S—n* to negotiate some affairs with my brother *Lions* there; nor do I think *any* fitter to go into *H—* than Sir *Bruin*.

The *Wolf* and *Fox* being thus reconciled, held frequent conferences how they might best strengthen themselves to support the authority they had obtained.

The MORAL.

By the *Fox's* hypocrisy is seen the dissimulation of worldly men; and how to effect their mischief to the full they ever put on the fair cloke of falsehood; by the general attendance of all *beasts* upon the *Fox* is shewed the flattery and baseness of *many* people, who never look how good a man is, but how great, and that favour and countenance is ever enough to command all their services. We here may also learn that evil men once advanced are mortally hated of their friends, because they also see no hopes of sharing with them in honour and profit, but if once they see a probability of their own advancement, they flatter and basely crouch to those whom they just before

fore would have killed, as appears by this and the following chapters.



CH A P. IX.

BUT the Lord *Reynard* not thinking himself quite secure from some enquiry into his actions while the *Bear* was among the assembly of the common beasts, and observing that ambition only was his predominant passion, procured him a *Daisy* from his Majesty, which gave him the empty title of *Lord of the Sandpits*, while *Sir Tibert* the *Cat* who was of a mere covetous disposition, and quite as mischievous a nature, was made a temporary *Governor*, or as it were Lord Lieutenant of one of the neighbouring forests. Each separately made an apology to Lord *Reynard*, and kissing his *paw* also, passed an act of oblivion on all sides.

The *Fox* thus at the head of affairs was hourly pestered with followers, his *Castle gates* were surrounded in a morning with crouds of beasts of all ranks and denominations,

minations, where even the *disfied* beast was as humble as the meanest, so that Lord *Reynard* could boast a more crouded levee than the *Lion* his master, all pressing for employment, whom he had the art to manage without giving offence to any, smiling on one, whispering another, giving his *paw* to another; and happy were they to whom these distinguishing honours were paid; while he inwardly laughing kept them in suspense and expectation by large promises and small performances, at whose folly and credulity, in his hours of retirement or avocation, he used to laugh egregiously. But knowing, to maintain his superiority how necessary a point it was to be diligent in obtaining and obliging friends, examined narrowly into the profits of all the employments at court and in the forest, and took special care that none was discontented thro' want of profit, preferring his friends and such as he thought he could best confide in to places of the highest trust, without the least regard to merit, not even his menials went without employment, not a beast who was master of two or three *holes, burrows* or *seats* I may call them, ever recommended in vain, however worthless

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the creature; and thus having all his own creatures only in office, he was confident nothing but eulogy and praise could be heard of him.

He was never wanting in giving profusely among the assembly of beasts (especially of penny-royal, of which he had plenty in his power) and whenever they brought into the King's treasures he used to take from thence and make them large presents again, which when they found they used to bring larger supplies, that he might have it in his power to give them still greater gifts. Among all his relations the *Monkies* were his chiefest favourites; numbers of whom he introduced at court, where their capacities and proneness to mischief were of infinite service to him. One of these recommended an *Owl* to employment which had been of singular use to him in his nocturnal excursions. Lord *Reynard* who could not well refuse his kinsman, who was an accomplished *courtier*, so small a favour, was for some time puzzled what employment to find fitting for the *Owl*, but for the gravity of his countenance made him at length a justice of peace; a place, says he which requires no capacity to

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to fill, as you are left to act as you please, and of great emolument not only from the *perquisites* which hourly accrue by virtue of the office, but upon account of the large *presents* which the *keepers* of his Majesty's *prisons* will make you, in order to obtain the favour that all your commit-
tals may be directed to them. How the *Owl* behaved in his office you may learn from the following chapter.

The MORAL.

The moral of this chapter is so plain that it needs no application, but however it may be observed, that we hence may gather that liberality is one main support of greatness; that gifts blind the eyes and alter the understanding so as men are easily induced to approve of that to day, which yesterday they contemned as most monstrous.

C H A P.



C H A P. X.

THE *Owl* who had learn'd to *claw* his name so well that it was plain to any tolerable reader, left all other business to his *clerk*, except any insult was offered to his own sacred person in the execution of his office, on which occasion he always exerted his authority and severely punished the offender for the indignity, if not for the *crime*. But how well qualified for his commission may be gathered from the following story, which the *Maggie*, who first chattered it abroad, avers for truth. A poor inoffensive *Wren* was carried by a *Black-bird* before Mr. justice *Owl* for perching on a *wild Strawberry bank*; the poor *Wren* was committed for a farther hearing, and kept so many months in prison, that thro' want and catching the *goal* disorder her *life* was in danger, but a compassionate *Robin-Red-Breast* informing the *Owl* that the poor injured *Wren* was innocent, she was then ordered to a re-examination, but upon her appearance,

without

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without farther enquiry into the matter,
Mr. justice *Owl* ordered her to be dis-
charged telling her he believed her inno-
cent. The poor *Wren* however, thro' her
ill habit of body from such long *confinement*,
died in two days after. I cannot for-
bear making another digression by giving
a story of a *Racoon*; recommended in like
manner, which for its singularity I hope
the reader will readily forgive; I cannot
doubt the truth, as I had it from *Key-
ward's* own mouth, and upon his honour
for fact. The *Racoon* was one of those
Itinerants who were usually sent by the *Lion*
into the remotest parts of the forest twice
a year, to hear and determine causes, if
any, between litigious *beasts*. A *Mole* was
brought by a *Squirrel* before the *Racoon* for
having thrown a heap of *earth* upon some
Nuts which he had secreted or hoarded for
his winter's provision. The *Mole* had
sufficient evidence that he never *saw* the
Nuts, whom he summoned to appear on
the day on which the *Racoon* after his ar-
rival usually entered upon *business*, but
having in his way drank a little too freely
of the *brook*, and having called all the
beasts of the forest about him contrary to
his

his custom, would enter then immediately upon business, and the *Mole* being foremost upon the *list* was first brought to the *bar* (as it was called) when the *Racoon* heated by the *water* of the *brook* began, by abusing him in a most gross manner, calling him rogue, rascal, &c. and telling him he had sent many an honest beast from the *bar* to the *tree*; I will send you there also, you *rascal*, says he, firrah, you have a *banging look*, you rogue, you rascal, you thief, I'll do for you, you rascal, &c. &c. The poor *Mole* in this deplorable condition applied to a *Hare* then passing by, and who was fed by a field in which the affair was said to happen; requesting he would apply to my *Lord* (for so the *Racoon* was called during his short commission) to put off his trial till morning, when he should have sufficient evidence to prove his innocence, but they were not then in court, not expecting business would go forward till morning. The *Hare* (being a *Hare* of quality) soon got to the *Racoon*, and sitting by him requested he would put off *that trial* till morning; for the poor *Mole* he said was innocent, had sufficient evidence to prove it, who would not arrive till morning, and that his *Lordship*

ship by entering so soon upon business would deprive him of the benefit of his evidence, &c. Do you say he is an honest *Mole*, *Keyword*, says the *Racoon*? I do Sir, upon my honour, replies *Keyword*. Never mind it then says he again, we'll bring on the trial! Well, says he, where is that *bonest Mole* at the *bar*? Who has any thing to say against the *bonest Mole* at the *bar*? the *Squirrel* advances in order to prosecute, and says, my Lord I—— have a care you *rascal*! says the *Racoon*, what you say; let me not catch you tripping, you *rascal*, for if I do, I shall release the *bonest Mole* and send you *double bolted* in his place, you *rogue*! —— Well *rascal*, what have you to say against the *bonest Mole* at the *bar*? —— My Lord, I have to say —— Have a care you *rascal*, let me not catch you in *one lie*; you shall be *doubly bolted* you *rascal*, if I do. Well *rascal*, what have you to say against the *bonest Mole* at the *bar*? The *Squirrel* at last worried interrupted, abused and intimidated cries out, my Lord, I have nothing at all to say against him —— Release the *bonest Mole* then, says he; and turning to the *Hare* whispers, justling with the
elbow,

elbow, well *Keyword* is not this—as well as putting off the *trial*? I should before have acquainted the reader that the *Racoon* spoke thro' his nose greatly, and that this *affair* happened in the forest westward of the great *lake*.

These tales convey their own morals too plainly to require any comment.



CHAP.



C H A P. XI.

BUT to return to Lord *Reynard*, who himself for certain purposes presided over many causes, we shall give an instance or two of his extraordinary talent for making his advantage of every occurrence during his administration. A *Beaver* and an *Otter*, who being at variance about *Fish* they had taken, make their several complaints before the Lord *Reynard*. The *Otter* begins by setting forth the wrong he sustained from the *Beaver*, who he said was his *partner* in a fishery for many years.

All the *Fish* we caught, says he, was stored up in common for the support of our families in hard frosts and severe seasons; this excessive pinching Winter, according to my usual custom, I came for *Fish*, but he, who always kept custody of the *Fish* in store, denied my privilege or right to any, giving me not so much as one small *Fish*. Therefore I humbly intreat your Lordship
to

to consider my present necessity and do me justice. The *Beaver* accused the *lying beast* of falshood and detraction, averring they were never partners, tho' he confessed they some times used to *fish* together, and afterwards make merry over their booty; that he had not the true art of fishing, always making such a noise in the water that he drove the *Fish* away; but I, my Lord, said he, never leap into the water until I see my prey secure within my reach, so that by discretion I catch at least double his number: And is it therefore reasonable to think, my Lord, that I should join in company with one whose labour in our art is not adequate to mine? Have you any store of *Fish* now by you, says Lord *Reynard*? No, my Lord, replies the *Beaver*. Believe him not, my Lord, replies the *Otter*, he has now vast quantities in store. Lord *Reynard* straightaway dispatched two officers to the *Beaver's* to search for *Fish*, who finding as the *Otter* had said, seized it in the *Lion's* name; and while one kept custody thereof, the other acquainted Lord *Reynard* of it, who then proceeded to sentence of condemnation, and bestowing one half upon the

Otter,

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Otter, as his *right* in the *quality* of an *in-*
former, sent the other half quietly home
for his own consumption.

Soon after a great diffension arising be-
tween some *Daws* and *Rooks*; the cause
was brought before Lord *Reynard*. The
Daws had taken up their residence in an
high tower, built, and formerly inhabited
by *men*; and in process of time becoming
very numerous, almost tenanted every hole
in the tower; right against which grew a
stately row of elms, in the upper bran-
ches of which, at first a few, and after-
wards many *Rooks* built also their habita-
tions. These neighbouring *volatily* at length
grew into acquaintance, and frequently
visited one another with great familiarity,
often expressing great kindness for each
other, especially on the side of the *Rooks*,
who often used to junket with the *Daws*,
and the *Daws* with them: These reciprocal
entertainments continued a long time, till
on a day in a very severe and hard season,
when all the old *Daws* were fled abroad,
the *Rooks* watching that opportunity agreed
together to rob the *Daws*, being greatly
impelled by hunger, and fearing the young
Daws should betray them, it was resolved

to

to kill them all, which was no sooner determined than executed; but carrying them away, thro' haste, they dropt some. The *Rooks* having thus not only massacred all the young *Daws*, but also despoiled their habitations of every valuable effect, hastened home, some of whom flew unconcerned abroad as at other times. The poor old *Daws*, returning with provisions for their young, with grief beheld the devastation; but smelling the deceit, the stoutest of them flew over to their neighbours, and coming unawares beheld the torn limbs of their young. Others flying downwards beheld them again lying dead upon the ground. The *Daws* greatly exasperated were hardly restrained from hostilities by the advice of the most sage among them, by whose counsel they sought redress of the King; but being given to understand that Lord *Reynard* only would take cognizance of the matter, they croaked aloud to him for justice; who hearing their story desired to summon the accused, which the *Rooks* willingly obeyed, and by their counsel set forth how basely the *Daws* had belied them. That most of them were also gone abroad for provision for their

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families

families ; that in their absence their ambitious young ones aiming to fly before they were able, crawling out of their *nests*, fell down and were killed by the fall, some of whom were still, they said, to be seen dashed to pieces against the stones. Lord *Reynard* remarking how strange it was that all the young ones should be alike disposed at once to crawl out, said, he should suspect their veracity, unless they brought sufficient evidence of the truth of their assertion ; when some of the elders of the *Rooks* affirming they could bring sufficient evidence who were eye-witnesses of the downfall of the young *Daws*; Lord *Reynard* desired they might be produced, upon which they all came in a body to give evidence that they were eye-witnesses that all the young *Daws* came to the doors of their houses, and there looking upon one another, and at length ambitiously striving to fly before they were able, they all tumbled down headlong ; now indeed, said they, we seeing they were fallen, we every one of us took up a dead body and carried it home, and upon the return of these our kindred, who stand here arraigned, told them the story ; who acquiesced
in

in what we had done, tho' to avoid giving further offence to our neighbours they would not suffer us to bring up any more of the dead young *Daws*. We also confess that the old *Daws* flying over to us beheld many of us, the witnesses, eating or devouring the dead bodies, and therefore falsely affirmed before your *Lordship*, that we had barbarously massacred them. The Lord *Reynard*, who was all attention upon this trial, observing how they denied the fact, yet confessed the eating of the young ones, pronounced them guilty from their own evidence, and condemn'd them all to be strangled, as an atonement to the injured *Daws* for the fatal massacre, which sentence was no sooner pronounced than executed; their dead bodies were delivered by tale into the Lord *Reynard's* kitchen, which the *Daws* beholding rejoiced exceedingly, and humbly thanked the *Fox* for the *revenge* he had given them, upon the murderers of their young ones. The *Fox* answered, he could do no less, as they were doubly guilty both of theft and murder, therefore, said he, I give you all the houses and effects remaining of these miscreants, tho' indeed properly my own forfeitures,

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that

that you may henceforth live secure from such treacherous neighbours. This piece of generosity proceeded not from pity in the *Fox*, however, but because he knew not what else to do with them. The *Daws*, very thankfully and most humbly took their leave, determined never after to hold fellowship or converse with the *Rooks*.

The MORAL.

By the foregoing chapter is shewn how dangerous it is for guilty persons to come within the judge his power, and that crafty men willingly forego, and readily give away what is not their own, or ever like to be in their possession, as is evident by the *Fox* who gives the *Daws* the *Rooks* nests because he knew not how to come at them. Whatever other moral this chapter conveys is left to the reader to find out.

C H A P.

and as it is said in the old story that the
 King's son was slain in the forest of
 Reynard the Fox. This is the first of the
 adventures of the Fox, which is the first of the
 adventures of the Fox.

CHAP. XII.

THE Lord *Reynard*, as appears by
 the foregoing passages of his life,
 to managing matters that which ever
 way the scale turned, some profit should
 accrue to him, partly by bribery on both
 sides, by forfeitures of the condemned, by
 a kind of a tax or rather gratuity out of
 places of emolument, and by the sole com-
 mand of all the *King's* treasures had amal-
 sed an infinite wealth, to which his private
 correspondence with the *Tiger* did not a
 little contribute, grew still more liberal to
 the *Nobles*, his and their dependents and
 followers, insomuch that he was esteem-
 ed the most eminent beast in the forest,
 and had by degrees so insinuated himself
 with the *Lion*, that all authority was de-
 volved upon him, and suffering not a
 word of truth to come to his ears, he was
 quite ignorant of the state and danger of
 his forests; upon which the *Tiger* conti-

nually endeavoured to inroach, as will more fully appear in the sequel of this history, though there were not wanting who endeavoured to open the *Lion's* eyes, by impressing on the leaves of trees the dangerous state of the forest, and misconduct of the beasts at the head of affairs; all which truths were unattended to thro' the Lord *Reynard's* policy, who by his corruption had secured himself a powerful party upon all occasions, misrepresenting their loyalty who intuitively saw approaching ruin, whenever they remonstrated it, and branding them with epithets as favourers of the young *Whelp* spoken of before, endeavoured to render them odious to the *Lion*, who in fact were the most *loyal beasts* in the forest. Tho' Lord *Reynard* by virtue of his *Daisy* was taken from among the common herd of *beasts*, yet he presided there, in consequence of his bribery among them, which was of infinite service to him and the furtherance of all his measures; as the provision for the *King's* household came entirely thro' their hands, * * * * * having put all the *Swans* out of commission who presided over the *lakes*, he replaced

placed them with *Geese* and *Goslings*, for he could place and replace; discard, or commission whom he pleased, and when he pleased; for it was only for him to *appoint* and the *Lion* to confirm.

The MORAL.

When aspiring subjects abound in wealth the royal power is liable to great danger.





ABOUT this time a great quarrel arose between the *Wolf* and the *Fox*, for which various causes were assigned, and which occasioned much speculation among the most penetrating beasts of the forest, but for which they say, the following was the true reason. The *Fox* by his flattery had so ingratiated himself with the King that none dared to complain of him, though he hourly committed great enormities, by secretly creeping into the Hen-roofs, and making a prey of them as well as of every other bird and beast, as he slyly and conveniently found his opportunity, only *Isgrim* the *Wolf*, who was it seems infinitely displeas'd with the *Fox*, boldly address'd his Majesty, saying, O my Lord the King, is it possible your Majesty can trust to the falshood of this ever deceiving *Reynard*, who has nothing but shadows and chimeras wherewith to enchant you; O be not so easily seduced, he is a wretch all black, and covered with murder and treason, and even to your face

face hath made a scoff of your Majesty; for my part, I am glad he is here in your presence, where I shall ring him such a peal, that all the lies he can invent shall not bear him out with safety. So it is (my dread Lord) that this dissembling traitor, not long since betrayed my wife most shamefully, for upon a winter's day, as they two travelled together thro' a very great water, he persuaded my wife that he would teach her a very singular art how to catch fish with her tail, by letting it hang angle-wise in the water a good while, whereunto he said there would so much fish instantly cleave, that half a dozen of them should not be able to devour it. The silly fool my wife (supposing all to be truth which came from him) went presently into the mire up to the belly before she came to the water, and coming into the depth of the water, as he directed her, she held her tail still down in the water, in expectation of the fish cleaving unto it; but the weather being sharp and frosty, she stood so long that her tail was frozen to the ice, so that with all her force she could not pull it out; which when

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this lustful villain saw, he presently leaped upon her and ravished her, in such a beastly and shameful manner that no modest ear is able to bear the odiousness of the action. My poor wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she shriek, cry, and feed upon the brine of her own tears, but all to no purpose; the deed was done, and the villain triumphed. This no impudence can make him deny, for I came and caught him in the action. O how rage and jealousy, grief and fury assailed me at that instant! I was even distracted to behold them, but he seeing me near approaching presently leaped from her and ran away. With a world of labour, heaviness and sorrow, I broke the ice about her, and in despite of all my cunning she was compelled to leave a piece of her tail behind her, and indeed we both escaped hardly with our lives, for she barked so loud, thro' the anguish she endured, that all the people of the neighbouring village were alarmed, and came upon us, armed with very offensive weapons, and so fiercely assaulted us, crying, Kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I never

ver was in greater danger: One among the rest, more strong and swift of foot than the others, hurt us sorely, and had not the night befriended us we had never escaped with life.

From hence we came into a field full of brooms and brambles, where we hid us from the fury of our enemies. Thus, my most gracious Lord, hath this traitor and murderer used us. The *Fox* with his usual policy, who was ever ready with an evasive cloke for any evil he had committed, excused himself under colour of finding her in this deplorable situation from which he endeavoured to deliver her when the *Wolf* came to them, appealing to herself for the truth, upon condition that she was freed from her husband, whose tyranny he apprehended might compel her to say any thing. Upon which dame *Arsewind* the *Wolf's* wife stepping forth, says, O *Reynard*, thou hast so oily and smooth a tongue, so dipt in flattery that none is secure from thine enchantment. Thou often hast deceived me, remember how thou didst use me at the well with two buckets, which hanging at one cord, and running through one pul-

ly,

ly, which ever as one went down the other went up; I remember how thou getting into one of them fellest down to the bottom of the well, and there fatest in great danger and peril, so that I ran thither in great haste, and heard thee sigh, and make great moan; and asking how thou earnest there thou answeredst me, that thou wert a fishing, and hadst so much fish thou saidst, and of which thou hadst eaten so many, that thy belly was ready to break, and saidst, aunt, leap into that bucket which hangeth there, and thou wilt be presently with me; which I no sooner did but (being much heavier than thyself) I fell presently to the bottom of the well, and thou earnest up to the top, at which when I grew angry, thou saidst, aunt, this is but the fashion of the world, ever as one comes up another must go down, and so saying, you leaped out of the bucket, and ran your way, leaving me there alone, where I remained a whole day, pining with hunger and starving with cold, and ere I could get out from thence, receiving so many blows, that my life was never in greater danger. The

Fox

Fox replied, aunt, tho' the strokes were painful unto you, yet I had rather you should undergo them than myself, for you are stronger and better able to bear them, and at that time of necessity one of us could not escape them; besides, aunt, I taught you wisdom and experience, that you should not trust either friend or foe, when the matter he persuades you to is the avoiding his own peril; for nature teaches us to love our own welfare, and he who doth otherwise is crowned only with the title of folly. Then, says dame *Arsewind*, I beseech you Majesty mark how this dissembler can blow with all winds, and paint his mischief with false colours, numberless the times when, he brought me into these mischiefs. Once he betrayed me to my aunt the she *Ape*, where before I could escape I was forced to leave one of my ears behind me. If the *Fox* dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his memory to be much better, besides he is apt to take advantage of the weakness of my language, and manner of expression) I desire no better evidence against him. Then says the *Fox*



I will do it, and with unerring truth, without flattery or falshood; therefore I beseech your Majesty to lend me your royal patience. Upon a certain time the *Wolf* came to me into the wood, and complained that he was exceeding hungry, (tho' I never saw him fuller in my life) but he would ever dissemble; at which I taking pity upon him, said, I was also as hungry as he, so away we went together till we came to the foot of an haw-thorn tree, where was an hole covered over with brambles, and hearing a noise within, I desired the *Wolf* to enter and try if he could find any thing to profit us (for something I knew there was) but he refusing to enter upon any consideration till he knew for certainty what was therein, and intreated me to enter, who he was pleased to say had art and wit enough to save myself from danger, promising to wait my coming out, and beseeching me to hasten, as he was impatient to know the event. Thus he persuaded me, poor silly beast, to be foremost in this hazard, while he who was of strength abode without in safety; which I conclude was no small act of friend-

friendship, for I would not for the *forest* undergo the like danger again. But to proceed, I went into the hole, and found the passage dark and tedious, till at length I saw a great light which came in on the other side of the hole, by which I discover'd lying there a great *She Ape*, with eyes sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with long sharp teeth, and on her fingers nails as sharp as thorns, I at first imagined her a *Marmazin*, *Baboon*, or *Mercat*; for a more dreadful beast I never saw. And by her side lay divers of her children, stern of countenance, and cruel like herself; who seeing me advance gaped with their mouths open, as if they would devour me. I grew amazed, wishing myself far from their residence, but resolving now I had got so far to extricate myself in the best manner I was able, I looked intently upon her, and methought she was of larger stature than *Isgrim*, and the smallest of her brats much larger than myself. They were all laid in foul litter, rotten and dirty with their own piss; so that I was almost poisoned with the stench, thinking good language was

was best, I accosted her saying, Good aunt, bless you and my fair cousins, your pretty children; they are unquestionably the fairest of their ages that I ever saw, they surpass in beauty, and look indeed like royal issue; truly, aunt, we are greatly pleased with this increase and glory to our family. I could not for my part, hearing you were laid down, forbear making you this visit. She replied, cousin *Reynard*, you are exceeding welcome, you have found me in a fluttish condition, but I am glad to see you, and thank you kindly for this friendly visit. It gives me great pleasure to hear of your preferment, whose wit and judgment is grown famous through the forest. I shall be happy, cousin, if I can prevail with you to take the charge of my childrens education, that they may learn from you how to thrive hereafter in the world; this has been my design ever since they came into it, I know your excellence, and that you disdain to associate with a beast who is not good and virtuous. How pleased was I to hear such language from her, which

kind-

kindness however only proceeded from my having called her aunt at first, who in effect was of no kindred to me; yet notwithstanding I soothed thus that most voracious monster, adding that my life and fortune were at her command, tho' I heartily wished myself farther from her at that very instant. I pitied *Isgrim*, who pinched with hunger waited all this while; and offering to take my leave under pretence that my wife would be impatient until my return, she said, dear cousin, you shall not depart until you have eaten something, I shall take it most unkind if you attempt it. Then carried me into an inner room where was a store of all kind of venison, as well as of all kind of birds, I was amazed whence they could all be brought. When I had eaten sufficiently she courteously presented my wife with a side and half a haunch of venison, which she insisted I should carry home; and which, tho' much ashamed, I was compelled to do; and so after long intreaties of more frequent visits I took my leave, rejoicing greatly that I had sped so well. Com-
ing

ing to *Isgrim*, who lay groaning piteously, I asked how he fared, who answered he was extremely ill, so ill, dear nephew, that without some meat, says he, I presently shall expire. I in compassion bestow'd upon him the portion which the *Ape* had sent my wife, which then preserved his life; but how he thanks me for it ye all are witnesses. He had no sooner devoured my venison, but he enquired what I found in the *hole*. I am, says he, more hungry now than ever, for this small morsel has but whetted my appetite. I desired he would  too, where he might find plenty,  aunt and her children lived there, whom I said, if he could but flatter and speak fair, he need not fear being well treated. I thought, my gracious Lord, this warning was sufficient, but barbarous beasts will never understand wisdom, and therefore loath the policies they know not; yet promising to follow my counsel he entered the hole, where finding the *Ape* in the condition before described, he began to abuse and revile her, desiring she would drown her frightful *goblins*, for greater deformity he said he

he never saw. Sir *Isgrim*, she replies, their creation is no fault in me, they are my children, and I am their mother, nor ought their beauty or hard favour either please or displease you, here was their kinsman to day, who is but lately departed, who is well known to exceed you in birth as well as virtue and wisdom; he accounted them fair and lovely, and for your opinion I care not, therefore you may depart at your pleasure. Dame, says he, I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed upon me than on these ugly *urchins*; but she refusing he attempted to take it, when she with all her children rushing upon him, scratched, clawed, and bit him so severely that the blood ran down in streams; a swift retreat being the best in his power. He came out, indeed, extremely bitten and extremely beaten, leaving one ear behind, in token of his manners. This, when I beheld, I asked if he had flattered sufficiently? He had spoken as he found, he said, for the *dame* was a foul bitch, and the litter most ugly monsters. I told him he should have commended their beauty, and
 taken

taken them for the best of his alliance. He said he would rather have seen them all hanged, then (quoth I) you must always receive the like reward; but wisdom would do otherwise; a lie sometimes as much availeth as a true tale, and fair words never come out of season, and better than we hold it for a rule worthy being followed. Thus, my liege, I have told your Majesty truly how Sir *Isgrim* came by his red night-cap, which he cannot, dare not deny, for all is true without addition. This story raised a loud laugh against the *Wolf*, who at the interposition of the King soon became friends with Lord *Reynard* again.

THE MORALE

By the complaint of the *Wolf* is shewed the envy which one bad man bears another, who for revenge care not what indignities they undergo, as appears by the *Wolf* flandering his own wife; by raising the village upon them is shewn that one mischief seldom cometh alone; by the *Fox's* answer is shewn how artfully policy will ever

cloke an evil under pretence of goodness. By the *Wolf's* falling into the well, shews the effect of covetousness; and that policy cares not who pines, so he feels no pain, as appears by the *Fox* tempting her into the bucket. Their entrance into the *Ske-Ape's* cave shews the difference between temperance and rashness, and how far good words will prevail before a rude and churlish behaviour.

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quam of th mid or some had a an good
stad blact i ture a sil est si abast
taduo gol a benicrism ed tal; ledimiq
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yno noimise tross a gism ed Apoly
sacq giffa i i quillie ind ture id no
conitio qe r



over thum
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* * *
* * *
edr th'ingho brabul
edw segll edr thiw stry gainde end
edr th'ist has it rbus most eqit
aidr gainde. Dourg this
burden on the *Wolf's* back. During this

C H A P. XIV.

TH E *Tyger* in, consequence of the schemes laid down by the old *Fox Reynard Defluro*, had nothing more at heart than becoming universal monarch of the woods, having by his profuseness * *

* * * * *
 thought himself now at leisure to follow those schemes and safe in the execution of them, as he had secured to himself so many friends in the *Lion's* court. I should have premised that he maintained a long combat against the *Lion*, whom he over-reached in policy, by making a short cessation only, on his part, but calling it a *lasting peace*, when in the greatest distress for provision for his household, and when he must have been evidently ruined for ever, had the generous *Lion* but maintained the combat a little longer, but * * * *

* * * * *
 the quarrel was not indeed originally the *Lion's*, but taking part with the *Eagle* who soon slipt from under it, and left, all the burden on the *Lion's* back. During this

ces-

cessation, for I can call it no other, the *Tyger* pretending great friendship for the *Lion*, endeavoured to exhaust all his stores and granaries, by drawing him into needless expence, by feeding beasts whose alliance could be of no service to him. To wean the *Wolf* and such as could serve him from his alliance, which the old *Leopardes* of the forest of *Andalusia* only prevented, and who observing the weakness of the *Lion's* counsels, thought it not impossible to wean even the *Eagle*, which he had so well supported, from his alliance. At this time the weakness and insufficiency of the *Lion's* counsels betrayed itself in nothing so much as rejecting the friendship of the young *Leopard*, who would have actually cemented a strong union with the *Lion* regardless of his cousin the *Tiger*, but I believe it was rejected by advice of the *Ass*. The *Tiger* finding leisure from this cessation, and by his influence upon those about the *Lion*, by whom all his actions were either overlooked or represented in a very favourable light, however destructive, finding leisure, I say, to pursue all his purposes, had upon the conclusion of the cessation one or more *beasts* his emissaries in every part of the forest ready

ready to snap up and buy all the *Swans*, *Geese*, *Ducks*, and *Eggs* they could, and not only so but endeavoured to entrap and inveigle every beast they could to become subjects to the *Tiger*, who soon began more openly to revel in his *cave* bordering upon the *lake*, which he by stipulation was never to occupy again; sweeping, cleaning, repairing and adorning it in the best manner he was able under colour of only scouring the filth and fallen leaves away. But having matters of greater consequence in agitation, he conveyed at every favourable opportunity such numbers of young *Baboons* and other beasts into his foreign forests as soon enabled him to make head against the *Lion* there; propagating his *Geese* and *Ducks* at the same time to such a number as were sufficient at least, he thought, to contend for the sovereignty of the lakes also, for which the *Lion* only has been always famous. Having taken care also to furnish provisions for his foreign friends, the greatest part of which he clandestinely obtained from the *Numidian* forest, on all sides prepared, and guarded against events, he began to rouse the slumbering *Lion* by acts of hostility which he began by en-

incroachments upon all the foreign forests, when the *Lion* with great civility, tameness and complaisance desired him to desist, he with pride and arrogance laid claim to some of the most valuable of these forests; but however to preserve decency and gain farther time, two beasts were nominated to adjust the limits between them, in which a long time was spent without doing any thing. All which time the *Tiger* spent in augmenting his forces (for so I may call them) and strengthening himself in his foreign forests, still retaining several little woods upon the *lake*, to which no particular beast laid claim, and were in common, I may say, between them, though he was by agreement to evacuate them upon the last cessation. His *Baboons* committed great cruelties in every forest, cutting off the heads of every beast they could catch, and fleaving or stripping them of their skins; which at length provoked the *Lion* to endeavour to repel force by force, and picking up a few straggling *Ducks* upon the *lake*, soon found that the *Tiger* had propagated his *broods*, to such a number as to be able to contend for superiority even there; of which he was the less afraid in that he

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The *Tiger* took infinite care to place as many of the best and ablest *Swans* he could find at the head of his *Geese* and *Ducks*, while the *Lion*, who thought all his *Geese* were *Swans*, leaving every affair to the management of the *Fox*, had too many *Parrots*, *Green-geese* and *Goslings* at the head of his, though manifestly else the best and ablest broods that ever crossed a lake. The *Tiger*, depending as much, if not more, upon their conduct whom he had corrupted about the *Lion*, became so audacious that matters soon came to an open rupture; and sending a flock of *Geese* to infest a small but valuable forest which was surrounded by a lake; the *Lion* sent also a flock to intercept them, but thinking them too weak, as only commanded by a *Gosling*, sent a small reinforcement under the conduct of a melodious *Swan*, and all the broods meeting upon the lake, the *Swan* alone maintained a glorious though unequal combat, while the timorous or corrupted *Gosling* stood an idle spectator at a distance, neither *bissing* himself or suffering those under his command to *biss* or *clap their wings*, but *swimming* away left the whole forest at the mercy of the ene-

enemy, which was notwithstanding a long time bravely defended by an old *Mastiff*, who for want of being relieved, and dying with thirst, was obliged at length to give it up, on as honourable terms as he could. The *Gosling*, who built greatly upon his friends at court, by the general *bray* of every beast in the forest was judged worthy of death; but whether he was executed in consequence of his treason or excused by the favour of his *friends* at court, our next advices from *Numidia* will inform us. Nothing but devastation, blood, and slaughter, breathed from the mouth of the *Tiger*, who gathering together every beast he could command threatened no less than an invasion of the forest and the utter extirpation of the *Lion*.



C H A P. XV.

WHILE the *Fox* who had underhand a good understanding with the *Tiger*, and indeed without such an under-

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standing the *Tiger* never would have dared
to proceed as he did:

The *Fox*, I say, who cared not how matters went, so he aggrandized himself, kept on in his beaten road of bribery and corruption, deceiving his generous master the King of beasts, and betraying the forest in every shape he could. But as he well knew the love of prey was the predominant passion of every beast in the forest, he was, as already said, very liberal of his gifts, yet was not in the mean while unmindful of waiting often upon the King, with soothing language and a specious *pretence* of honesty to lull him even into a lethargy of security, who being in years and having ruled the forest a long time, hearing no complaints himself, was extremely well pleased to find he had constituted a substitute on whom he had delegated all his authority to so good a purpose, and for such wise ends as he was always given to understand he did, by the *Fox* upon every occasion, or his friends about the King. And indeed he was so circumspect as never to give the least room for doubting his sincerity upon any occasion whatever; placing always those about
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the King in whom he could confidently confide, and whom by bribery he had rivetted to his interest, removing *Bellin* the *Ram* and all his kindred from any communication with him, misrepresenting them as dangerous disloyal creatures, prone to sedition, and beasts very unsafe for his Majesty to keep about him. The *Wolves*, numbers of whom Lord *Reynard* had introduced at court and promoted to high places, were driven to have constant recourse to hypocrisy, as indeed all his party were, but chiefly a large overgrown *Wolf* who had a beautiful *den* at the corner of * * * * who was so deeply engaged in all his schemes that he must of necessity be involved in his ruin if ever ruin came. This *Wolf*, who kept the fairest outside, was of all others, except Lord *Reynard* himself, most deeply interested in the intrigues of the *Tiger*, preferring only *Wrens* and *Goslings* upon every occasion, whose corruption or cowardice, or both perhaps, he knew would best answer all the intentions of the *Tiger*; while *Bellin's* kindred, who indeed might be distinguished by the tincture of their skins, being a *true blue*, were driven disregarded into the forest, and kept

from all employment, over whom several *apes* were set as spies by the *Fox* and his adherents. Of this kindred and dye were almost all the *Swans* of the lake, who were soon discovered by their behaviour, and as soon dismissed from employment as discovered, or rather as they behaved well; of which among many instances I shall give but one, 'of a *Swan* well known in every lake and forest for the melody of his *voice* and the integrity of his heart, who being put into commission by the *Fox* had a brood of *Geese* given him to command, and being dispatched upon an important expedition, not with an intent that he should execute it, for that was quite contrary to the *Fox's* design, but that he might perish in the attempt, for refusing to go with his *wings pinioned* as all the *Swans* were obliged to do, the last of whom, which was upon that same *lake*, fluttered so long to unbind his wings that he broke his *heart*, as it was rumoured in the forest; but *this*, contrary to the *Fox's* expectations, succeeded so well that all the forest rejoiced at it, and upon his return the *Fox*, without so much as pretending to pick a hole in one of his feathers, which at this time were plumed very high,

high, degraded or dismissed him from employment, as in fact he did every bird or beast who had the integrity to be faithful to the *Lion*; a stronger instance of which than that of the above, joined with the noble *Ram* of *Chestnutfold* forest cannot, nay need not be given. Matters being thus carried by the baseness, treachery, and ingratitude of the *Fox* and *Wolf* last mentioned, to the amazement of every beast in the forest, except such as were in their interest or their secrets. The *Tiger* became still more and more audacious, investing every forest, committing all manner of rapine and breathing nothing but destruction to the *Lion*, puffing the *leaves* of *trees* through every forest with *false impressions*, and sending the most lying *Baboons* he could pick to every beast about, but chiefly to the *Leopard* whom he endeavoured with all his art to win over to take part in the quarrel with the *Lion*, not only by offering to cede to him the little forest of which he had so lately made a conquest, magnifying the great advantage so contiguous a forest would be to the *Leopard*, but by offering to divest the *Lion* of another forest as contiguous and of infinitely greater value than the forest

called *Gibforest*, if he, the *Leopard*, would join in the attempt, which else he thought too dangerous and unavailable singly for himself. However he proceeded to annoy the *Lion* all in his power, and having greatly improved his brood of *Geese* and *Ducks* seemed not averse to hazard his success chiefly upon their *conduct*, but notwithstanding, building his greatest hope upon the *corruption* and *misconduct* of the *Lion's broods*, became more adventurous, to which he was not a little prompted by his *escape* from a brood in the former quarrel as well as this, the semblance of *which* with this latter *escape* is such that it need not here be related.



C H A P XVI.

I I is not too late I hope to acquaint the reader, that in the forest were several *spots* so efficient as to render the *beast* who could *properly* or *seasonably* clap his *paw* upon one of them of great consequence in the forest,

forest, and give him pre-eminence over every beast who had not the like advantage by clapping his *paw* upon some other spot; he had likewise a right to have a precognition of every affair relative to the forest; and always was one of those who brought provision for the King's stores, &c. &c. &c.

To these the *Fox* was more than ordinary attentive, who *gained* his favour and *shared* his gifts more or less according to the number of *spots* upon which they could clap their *claws* at one and the same time, and indeed they were the *only beasts* who unrepulsed could ask a favour at court, and to whom the *Fox* was at certain seasons very liberal; even the *Tiger* it was thought was not without his *friends* among them. The struggle which used to be for these *spots* is scarce credible; the *Fox* and *Wolf* making use of every indirect means to clap their friends paws upon them, not so much in opposition to the *Ram* and his *friends* perhaps, as for their great utility in the assembly of the beasts, many of whom lost their lives upon this important occasion; I cannot help remarking here that when ever a beast who was of the *Ram's* kindred

fell, his loss was accounted as nothing, thro' the powerful influence of the *Fox* and *Wolf*; and on the contrary whenever a *Monkey*, *Ape*, *Racoon* or any of the *Fox* or *Wolf*'s kindred fell, however so insignificant in himself, his loss was atoned by the life of his opponent.

The *Tiger* pushing his conquests with great rapidity, especially committing great devastations through all the foreign forests, thought now of nothing less than becoming universal monarch of the woods, designing if he could draw the *Leopard* into his quarrel, as soon as he had made his conquests over the *Lion*, to fall upon him the *Leopard* also, and drive him, as he intended to do the other, which indeed would have proved no difficult task, as he would have been enabled to propagate *Geese*, *Ducks*, &c. as well as have as numerous a shoal of *Baboons* and *Monkeys* as he pleased, and in which he foresaw no difficulty while the *Fox* and *Wolf* were at the head of affairs, whom the large *remittances* he had clandestinely *sent*, and the larger *promises* he frequently *made*, rendered quite subordinate to his will; and it is confidently asserted that his emissary left three hundred thousand
mea-

measures of *corn of Peru* among them, when he left the *Lion's* court.

Matters coming at length to such an *issue* and the public calamity becoming so great, the *Wolf* and *Fox* were in danger of being torn to pieces by the *beasts* of the forest; and *justice* calling aloud, the *King*, whose *eyes* were not yet open to their villainy, agreed to hear the complaints against them, and issues his royal mandate for apprehending them as traitors, which the *Wolf* immediately was; upon notice of which the *Fox* immediately retired to his castle which he had built, beautified and adorned at so remote a distance that its magnificence should be no bait or temptation for the *Lion* ever to seize upon it to make a royal palace.

The MORAL.

Covetous and greedy-minded men, forgetful of every good, rush headlong upon their own ruin where matter of profit is strewed as a bait.



C H A P. XVII.

THE Lord *Reynard* having retired to *Bramble Brier* with his domestics and friends to the amount of four hundred, the King gave orders to his cousin *Sly-look* to make ready for a march, whom he dispatch'd with forces (chiefly of the *Hound-kind*) sufficient he thought to subdue Lord *Reynard* in a very short time, telling him that he should have the honour to wade through this difficulty and bring the traitor *Reynard* to condign punishment: he marched at the head of his beasts with such expedition that he soon arrived within sight of *Bramble Brier* when he halted, and determining to rest awhile, in the interim called a council of war, at which all the beasts of note assisted; when first of all it was agreed to learn if possible the *strength* of the *enemy*, and long debates arose whether it were best to besiege in form or attack by sudden assault, for if we do not, says one of the *wisest* and most *ccourageous* among them, our labour will be to little purpose. If they
fally

fally not forth to a general engagement we must by close siege and length of time starve them out, or suddenly endeavour by general assault to force the castle. This opinion not meeting with approbation, it was proposed to send out scouts to make what discoveries they could, for we have not forces sufficient, says one, to besiege the castle, neither is it convenient we should at present, as we know not the private avenues and holes belonging to it, or how far they may extend, and where the enemy may probably conceal themselves, by which means when we only expect an enemy before us, they issuing out assault us behind and on every side. This proposal being agreed to, it was determined to send out *Squirrels* and others the nimblest among the beasts, to discover if they could, who went to, or came from the castle, and being ordered to lie very close round the castle for fear of being surpris'd; they were punctual to their orders, in some short time they discovered several beasts loaden with provisions passing into the castle by private holes under the rocks and briers, and others also coming forth by some remoter passages. Among these scouts in
am-

ambush, one espying the earth not long east up before him, was very diligent in observing it, which he had not long done before he saw *Reynard* the traitor put forth his head, who soon drew back observing that the coast was not clear, when the scout leaping forward to seize him, could not so much as get in one of his *paws*, so quick was the *Fox* in throwing up the earth and intrenching himself; the scout, however, marking the place retired to his ambush, where he had not long lain before he saw one of *Reynard's* creatures coming forth of another hole at something greater distance, whom he suffered to advance till he seized him by the neck and carried him to the General. Others of the scouts made the like discoveries, and having seized three or four beasts loaden with provision, carried them all to the General. By the report of the scouts none went into the castle by these private holes, but by larger avenues close to the rock under the briars. The General upon examining the prisoners found the *Fox* and his uncle the *Ape* were both within the castle, that the number of the beasts with them were three hundred and seventy five; that he had large quantities of

pro-

provisions, but notwithstanding employed half his force the preceding day in foraging, and the other half on that, adding withal that near an hundred of them might be taken with their booty in a short space, near so many he said being still out, owing to their alarming the forest who were abroad the day before, and nothing could be procured near home. Upon this information the *General* sent a party to intercept the *foragers*, and proceeded to the examination of the *beast* taken coming out of the hole. He gave information that the *Lord Reynard* (as he still called him) being informed by the creatures who returned with their booty into the castle, that several beasts lay in ambush, and that *General Sky-look* was near with an army, was determined to pass by the hole through which he was seen to thrust forth his head to reconnoitre, and finding the truth from his own observation commanded me to inform the beasts which are yet abroad; with an injunction that they should retire into covert until night, by favour of which they might escape in their return. This commission I should have executed, had I not fallen into your excellency's hands.

The

The MORAL.

Great disasters astonish the most politic, especially when they come unforeseen, as is here shewn by the *Fox*, who although before never had a shift to seek, yet is now so confounded he knows not which way to turn himself. Here is likewise shewn the danger of attempting any thing in war without good advice, and how beneficial a right understanding of the enemy's condition is for the future management of martial affairs.



C H A P.



C H A P. XVIII.

THE general after having secured the prisoners, called another council of war, wherein it was resolved to summon *Reynard* to surrender, upon which a subaltern beast was sent with a detachment of forty common *brutes*, who coming as near the castle as he thought convenient for the safety of his person, summoned the *Fox* in due form to surrender, but was answered only by a shower of stones which were so well aimed as to wound several *beasts*, whose lives were probably preserved by the prudence of their leader, whose experience had taught him the danger of trusting to an enemy. The general upon this finding he had not sufficient force to take the castle, and fearing it might be a work of great length, wherein the lives of many *beasts* might be lost, encamped himself with all the art he could, while he dispatched

patched a young *Hare* his *aid de camp*, to court for a *reinforcement*; so encamping with his forces that night before the castle they regaled upon the *booty* taken from the enemy; after which all necessary precaution was taken for fear of surprize by appointing proper centinels, and taking every other measure which experienced generals usually take. The *Fox* who was not idle on his part, being extremely discontented that so many of his garrison were cut off, (for upwards of forty were intercepted) in the night detached three hundred *beasts* led by the *Ape* his uncle, who marching very silently intended to surround the camp, which was contracted in as narrow a compass as possible, with orders first to attack the centinels and then bray out on every side at once, *Now for the Lord Reynard*; who would lose all however rather than hazard his own body in so dangerous an enterprize. His party marching in the form of a half-moon, that they might not be easily dispersed or broken, and to facilitate their surrounding the camp, were notwithstanding their circumrotation and circumspec-
tion

tion discovered, and timely intelligence given to general *Sly-look*, who was very vigilant and lay himself all night with *stones* in his *paws*, who now dividing his forces led one party in person and committed the care of the other to a *beast* of *figure*, his lieutenant. Both parties marched very silently round the camp on each side to meet with the horns of the enemies *half-moon*, which they quickly did, engaged, and routed, pursuing them closely, and the whole camp being alarmed, they were *ensnared* in their own *snare* and surrounded on every side, numbers were either killed, or taken prisoners, the *Ape* their leader being among the slain, few escaping by flight to give the *Fox* an account of the defeat. After the engagement the number of prisoners amounted to an hundred and six, of the killed and wounded forty eight. Of the king's forces six were killed and several wounded. So that of the 300 who issued out there returned but one hundred and forty six to *Reynard*; the loss of which number, and the defeat he had met with, he greatly dreaded the consequence of.

The

The MORAL.

Traitors grown desperate and having forfeited their lives will hearken to no summons, but are more enraged on hearing thereof. This chapter likewise shews how provident commanders enervate and frustrate the policy and rage of their enemies.



C H A P.



C H A P. XIX.

GENERAL *Sly-look* immediately dispatched an express to the *Lion*, giving an account of his success, and to hasten the reinforcement, dating his paquet from the camp before *Bramble-brier*. The King rejoiced greatly upon receipt of this news, and sent his youngest *whelp* at the head of a considerable force to the camp, determining himself to defend the nearest passages to the forest if the traitor should attempt to make greater head against him; and in the mean while published his royal proclamation, pronouncing all who should aid or assist the *Fox* to be traitors and rebels, with an offer of free pardon to every beast who should desert him, upon which upward of an hundred quitted him, and came to offer their service at the camp; to which also some thousands voluntarily repaired in their loyalty and zeal to his Majesty, whom the royal

whelp

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whelp seeing, sent to learn whether they
were friends or enemies, who soon un-
derstanding what they were, glad of
their assistance, immediately began to pre-
pare to storm the castle, having first
planted a party at some distance who
were employed as *Miners*, not in opening
but stopping the holes and avenues,
while others were in ambuscade at still a
greater distance, the better to destroy
the out-goings of the enemy, and if
possible by the ambitude to cut off all
hopes of escape. These prudent *dispo-*
sitions being made no enemy was seen
either in the castle or to come forth by
those private avenues, (which were stop-
ped up as fast as possible) but night com-
ing on it was judged necessary to sus-
pend the assault until morning, during
which suspension a diligent watch was
kept and all possible care taken. Ear-
ly on the morrow all things being rea-
dy, every *brute* waited impatiently for
the word of command to begin the
assault; against which the *Fox*, who was
not idle on his part, provided with all
the diligence and art he could, who had
dugged deep trenches round about the
castle-

castle-wall within, which were filled with water by great labour drawn from a neighbouring spring. Over this trench upon the wall he made false battlements seemingly of great strength, upon which four hundred beasts leaping with great agility in the first onset, the battlements breaking they fell into the trenches, where such as were not drowned were killed by the *Fox* and his *beasts*.

The MORAL.

It is commonly seen that the followers of traitors readily forsake them when they see a probability of securing themselves. Here is likewise shewn that bold adventures are hazardous, therefore the wiles of an enemy should always be suspected.

C H A P.



C H A P. XX.

THIS overthrow greatly perplexed the young *Whelp*, who so inadvertently fell into this *masked piece of policy*, for the possibility of storming the castle seemed now to be very doubtful, therefore a *council of war* was called, wherein after many debates and different opinions it was at length *resolved* that a large detachment should ascend the wall, with orders not to attempt leaping down upon any provocation whatever, but having plenty of stones, their chiefeft ammunition, were to cast them at the enemy, if occasion offered; and above all to observe the avenues and inlets belonging to the castle. They accordingly marched round the castle-wall, meeting with no small provocation from the enemy, though few in number and very punctual to their orders; very diligently as well as curiously made their observations, for there were some *beasts* of great speculation of the party. It appeared by their report that

Key-

Reynard had built several bridges about his castle so narrow that only one beast at a time could pass them. The royal *Whelp* upon this intelligence employed two thousand *brutes*, most of them *Moles*, in opening the avenues; for, though very young he had all the courage and conduct of the most experienced General; and was only to blame in hazarding his royal person too freely to the most imminent dangers.

The *Moles* and *Terriers* or miners having soon enlarged and opened the avenues, his highness immediately commanded another detachment upon the walls, to amuse the enemy, with orders to *bray* and *howl* as loud as they could; at the same time he commanded six hundred *beasts* to enter by the avenues, whose courage he could confide in. These were to gain the bridges and pass them at all events, and without distinction to put all to death, male or female, old or young, excepting only *Reynard*, for whom he offered as a reward *half* the *ffeets* in his castle, and withal that if any beast died in the attempt his whole household should be provided for at his Majesty's expence. Big with expectation and bold from such encouragement

F

they

they resolutely entered the avenues, some of which were so noisome that some of the beasts were almost poisoned; nevertheless pressing forward without resistance, though they saw the rebels very near them, they soon came to the bridges, which however they durst not venture over, but observing a large outlet near one of those by which they themselves entered, (this outlet was found to be one of those larger avenues by which *Reynard's* creatures used to enter with their booty) upon which the General *Slylook* gave command they should all be opened (for they now discovered many of them) which was accordingly executed with great facility by the six hundred who had entered, but durst not still venture over the bridges, until they saw sufficient room for a reinforcement if necessary, for by means of these wider avenues they found the royal *Whelp* could pour in succours to their relief upon any emergency. Taking fresh courage from so weighty a consideration they rushed forward, while the *Fox* with his rebel-beasts endeavoured to pluck up the bridges, but could not effect it by means of the continual showers of stones thrown at them, both from the wall and
by

by those beneath, therefore retiring, the assailants gained ground, and slew numbers of them in their retreat; the slaughter soon became so great that not a beast of them escaped except the *Fox*, who was taken alive, being first knocked down by a beast who mistook him for a *Racoon*; but being known by another beast, who immediately howled out that it was the traitor himself, his life was preserved, and he was immediately carried prisoner to the royal *Whelp*, who rejoiced exceedingly to find so great a traitor in his power to bring to justice. Half his effects were given among the six hundred, and the other half divided among the other beasts.

The royal *Whelp* after having demolished the castle, disbanded the beasts, reserving only two hundred to guard the *Fox*, whom he led in triumph to court, where they were received with great expressions of joy by the *Lion*, making the *Jackall*, who had greatly distinguished himself in this action, and his heirs perpetually, *providers* for him and his family for ever. He also conferred great honours upon *Slylook* and others, highly satisfied with their conduct and valour, promising them *gifts* and *rewards*.

The King being asked, if he would see the traitor *Reynard*, he answered no, not at this time; let articles of impeachment be drawn up against him that he may be condemned and executed in due form, and giving orders for his close confinement, committed him into safe custody, but separate from *Isgrim* the *Wolf*, with whom he was to take his trial, and after feasting his friends in a royal manner, the fragments with a little dirty water were carried to the prisoners, whose usage was so severe that they looked upon death as mercy. Soon after the following articles of impeachment were drawn up against the *Fox* and *Wolf*.

The MORAL.

In this chapter is taught that assailants adventuring too rashly are taught by their own loss to be afterwards more wary, also that the hope of reward is absolutely necessary in dangerous attempts.



C H A P. XXI.

Articles of impeachment against REYNARD the Fox, and ISGRIM the Wolf, &c.

A R T I C L E I.

AFTER the preamble set forth, that he the said *Reynard the Fox*, commonly called *Lord Reynard*, together with *Isgrim the Wolf* and several others their aiders and abettors, had been guilty of treason and misprision of treason, and other high crimes and misdemeanors against the peace of our sovereign Lord the *Lion*, King of beasts, his person, crown, and dignity, in having wickedly and traiterously held secret correspondence with the *Tiger of Deluce*, and others his Majesty's enemies, thereby betraying the confidence reposed in them, the said *Fox* and *Wolf*, exposing his Majesty's *person* and *forests* to imminent danger, and revealing

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the counsels with which they were en-
trusted.

A R T I C L E II.

Setting forth, that they, the said *Fox* and *Wolf* had at sundry times, and upon sundry occasions, most traiterously, wickedly and corruptly received *bribes* to an immense value from him the said *Tiger of Deluce*, as a recompence for *betraying* the *forests* into his hands.

A R T I C L E III.

Setting forth, that they, the said *Fox* and *Wolf* never permitted *one word of truth* to be uttered in his Majesty's ears from the *first moment* of their administration to the *last*, either by *themselves*, or by their *creatures* whom they had placed about him.

A R T I C L E IV.

Setting forth, that they, the said *Fox* and *Wolf* had defrauded his Majesty and the forest, by *embezzling* his stores committed to their care, converting them to *corrupt uses*, and *bribing* the *common beasts* with

with their own *gifts*, to secure their *braying* for every wicked purpose of their own.

ARTICLE V.

Setting forth, that they the said *Fox* and *Wolf* had betrayed and deceived his Majesty in discarding the *Ram* and all his *kinred*, together with all the *Swans* from every *place of trust*, representing them as *disaffected* and *disloyal*, and so driving them from his Majesty's *presence*, only because they opposed their *corrupt measures*, and in their *zeal* to his *Majesty* and his *forests* would prevent the *evils* which they the said *Fox* and *Wolf* intended, and hourly endeavoured to bring upon them.

ARTICLE VI.

Setting forth, that they the said *Fox* and *Wolf*, from *time to time*, and at all *times* since their administration, had wilfully, and corruptly, neglected to propagate his Majesty's *Geese* and *Ducks*, divesting all the *Swans* of any authority over them, and giving the command to

Geslings only, who could not *cackle*, and such *tame-Geese*, as would readily submit to have their *wings pinioned*, many of whom, it appeared from their behaviour, had also an underhand understanding with the *Tiger*, whose *Geese* and *Ducks* were treacherously permitted to pass unmolested, and suffered to escape whenever they appeared upon the lake, however dangerous their designs against his Majesty's forests, crown, and dignity.

ARTICLE VII.

Setting forth, that they, the said *Fox* and *Wolf*, did treasonably and treacherously permit the *Tiger* to revel in his cave bordering upon the lake in *Kirknod forest*, suffering him, in manifest violation of his agreement, to sweep, cleanse, repair, and adorn it in the best manner he was able, without so much as asking why he did so; and at the same time representing to his Majesty, that he the said *Tiger* was only sweeping the filth and fallen leaves away.

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ARTICLE VIII.

Setting forth, that they the said *Fox* and *Wolf* treasonably and treacherously permitted him the said *Tiger*, to convey numbers of *Baboons* and other *beasts* into the *foreign forests*, and to fortify themselves, there exercising great cruelties, and cutting off the heads of every beast they could catch without so much as taking the least notice of it, or providing for their security or relief, until too late, when the clamour only of their fellow-creatures seemed to awaken them to a sense of the danger.

ARTICLE IX.

Setting forth, that they the said *Fox* and *Wolf* neglected to send a sufficient brood of *Geese* and *Ducks* into the *middle-tanian lake*, for the timely preservation of his Majesty's little forest there, tho' they had reiterated advices of the designs against it from every other forest.

ARTICLE X.

That they, the said *Fox* and *Wolf*, most traiterously and treacherously neglected to reinforce, or any way support the brave *Mastiff* who defended the forest, which it was well known they could have done if they pleased, long before the *Tiger* did or could make any attempt upon it.

ARTICLE XI.

Setting forth, that they, the said *Fox* and *Wolf* did most treasonably and treacherously send only a small brood of ten *Geese*, with their wings clipped under the command of an unfledged *Gosling*, not able or willing to cackle, too late for its preservation, and too weak for its defence, when it was so easy, without danger or hazard to send a brood of three times the strength under the command of an able *Swan*, in full and sufficient time to be efficacious enough to preserve that valuable forest; the loss of which in so shameful a manner reflects such dishonour upon the royal *Lion*, his crown

crown and forests that no annals can produce an instance of parallel *infamy*.

ARTICLE XII.

That they the said *Fox* and *Wolf*, did from time to time, and at all times during their administration, at certain periodical seasons, and as often as occasion offered, contrary to his Majesty's inclinations and without his knowledge, expend and lavishly embezzle his Majesty's *stores* and *provisions* in support of their *creatures*, in struggling to *clap* their *paws* upon the *spots* in the *forest*, in order to secure the *majority* of the beasts, and perpetrate their traiterous and wicked designs, in violation of his Majesty's law, and utter *subversion* of the *constitution* of the *forest*. By all which mismanagement the *forest* was several *measures* of *corn* in *debt*, and his Majesty's stores entirely exhausted.

ARTICLE XIII.

That he, the said *Fox*, did appear in open rebellion against his Majesty, his

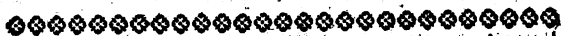
CROWN

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crown and dignity, by taking up *stones*
and fortifying himself in his castle at
Bramble-brier, against the peace of his
sovereign Lord the *Lion*, &c. &c.

The Lion has not his own words said
and he is not the only one who has
said so much of the same thing
and he is not the only one who has
said so much of the same thing
and he is not the only one who has
said so much of the same thing
and he is not the only one who has
said so much of the same thing



CHAP.



C H A P. XXII.

TH O' many other indictments for capital offences could be brought against the *Fox* and *Wolf*, yet these were thought sufficient to try them upon. For which purpose a special court was erected at which the *Lion* assisted in person, and the *Fox*, being admitted to plead for himself, with very low reverence addressed his Majesty; saying, most gracious soveraign, thus loaded with calumny and impeached of high crimes and misdemeanours, (treasons capital indeed, and worthy death) it is my happiness that I am permitted to speak for myself, before your Most gracious Majesty, and this honourable assembly of beasts; where I hope to prove my innocence, and acquit myself with honour of the heavy charges brought against me, of which I see my enemies the *Rams* and all their kindred are very proud, hoping

to

to see my fall that they may succeed in the high *esteem* and *places* of *trust* in which I had the honour to stand with your Majesty, in which I hope my innocence will prevent their triumph. I never, says he, held any correspondence with the *Tiger*, or any beast for him, either directly or indirectly, and if ever any of your Majesty's counsels were betrayed it was not through any treason in me. But several leaves being produced, stamped with his own *paw*, he could make no farther defence to this article.

I confess, says he, that my kindred the *Foxes* of *Deffaro's* family have several times made me considerable presents of *Figs*, *Raisins*, and other *fruits*, but never as a recompence for *treason*, or a reward for dishonesty. This article was likewise proved against him.

That he was very sorry the truths he had always aimed to inform his Majesty of in the integrity of his heart, should be construed into lies and falsehoods, for which he confessed there might be some colour for his enemies to make advantage of, as they in the conclusion terminated in a manner different from what he had said they would, which he

was always very sorry to see. That as to the rest, if those about his Majesty *would* be *sycophants* and *flatterers*, he humbly hoped it would be imputed as no crime in him, that being an *evil*, he said, he was much afraid his Majesty would be never able to remedy. As to defrauding his Majesty and the forest by embezzling the stores, says he, as large quantities of provisions were allowed by his Majesty for *secret service*, to which purpose alone they were always applied, I humbly hope I shall not be obliged to give a particular account of the disbursements, because that would be exposing his friends abroad to the *Tiger's* resentment, and as to his liberality to his friends at home, he said, it was in mere kindness to them, and for no private or sinister end whatever. That he confessed, he acquainted them from time to time when his Majesty's stores grew low, and that they freely and voluntarily brought provisions in their duty to his Majesty and zeal for his person, and that they were never sparing to bring an *over-measure* whenever any *foreign beast* was to be fed, which was *often the case*, he said, tho' they seldom or ever

did

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did more than *promise* to be friendly for
it.

The *Rams* he said, and their kindred had always distinguished themselves in violent opposition to him and his friends, always kindling feuds and animosities among the beasts of the forest, ever seeking his overthrow; that he always *said* they were favourers, friends, adherents to the *young Whelp*, notwithstanding that he was satisfied their chief aim was only to displace him and raise themselves to that pitch of credit and preferment which he had, not long since, the honour to stand in with his Majesty. But this article being so plain to every beast in the forest, and his defence judged so frivolous and weak, that it still carried its full weight.

As to any wilful neglect in propagating his Majesty's *Geese* and *Ducks* he said, he could with confidence say he was never guilty of it, but that as the charge of maintaining them was always so heavy upon his Majesty and the forest, he thought a few *broods* might be sufficient to secure the *lakes* in a time of profound peace; that all the *Swans*, he said, were

were so headstrong and unruly they never hesitated to attack any of the *Tiger's broods*, tho' ever so inferior in *number* to them, and tho' he said, he confessed notwithstanding that inequality in number, yet they always came off conquerors; but tho' they did, says he, they greatly risked his Majesty's broods, and breaking their *Eggs*, and therefore he always thought it more prudent to give the command to such as knew how to keep within bounds, and were careful to *preserve* his Majesty's broods. That as to their having any underhand understanding with the *Tiger* he knew nothing of it, nor could he be accountable for it. And that as to their suffering his broods to pass in the manner they did, he believed it was owing to their *care* for *preserving themselves* and their broods, perhaps for future *service* for his Majesty; since the *wild Geese* of his *enemy* seemed to *cackle* so *fiercely*, and *looked* to be so *dangerous* to *encounter*. And that as to the *Tiger's* revelling in his cave bordering upon the *lake* in *Kirknod forest*, they themselves were as ignorant of his first intention as any beasts alive, (for he would answer

swer for both) nor never dreamt that the *Tiger* had any other intention than that of merely sweeping the filth and fallen leaves away. That tho' he gave very large quantities of provision to procure the best intelligence, yet he was always kept in ignorance of what was doing until all the world might know it, &c. &c.

That in consequence of this want of proper intelligence the *Tiger's Baboons* were carried from time to time to foreign forests, that he confessed that he had been told of it from time to time, but did not believe it, and that he was the more incredulous as a *Baboon* of high rank was sent by the *Tiger* at that time to court, who affirmed to the contrary, that by the time the *Tiger* had finished sending abroad all that he intended, and began to make encroachments, his (the *Foxes*) eyes were opened a little, and he began to suspect the *Tiger* had some design upon the forests; that as soon as he thought so, (and it was better late than never) he sent over as many beasts as he conveniently could, and was sorry they had not better success upon their arrival, but that he hoped still his Majesty would,

would be able to drive them from his forests there, &c, &c.

That the *Tiger* had deceived him in his design, upon the little forest in the *Middletonian lake*, having always given out that he meant another expedition; that he confessed he had often been told of it, but as he never regarded what the common beasts of the forest said, and that advice coming chiefly from the *Rams* and their kindred, he was the more regardless of it, but, says he, I am very sorry it is lost, and wish the other little forest contiguous to it may not be lost also, &c. &c.

That as soon as he believed the report about it, and that he could not for shame but send some succour to the *Mastiff*, he did, he said, send a small brood, for that purpose; but denied that he had clipped their wings, for, says he, they could cackle if they pleased, and were esteemed before their departure as fine a brood as any upon the lake; that the command was given to a *Gosling*, he said, was true; but that *Gosling* was *Grand-Gosling* to a very famous *Swan*, and cackled on shore, as indeed did all the brood, says he, as briskly and as loud as any *Geese* on the lake; that he the

Gosling

Gosling might have been sooner there if he pleased; but taking his pleasure as he went, and loitering his time upon the way, made his arrival a little unseasonable. That sending so small a *brood* was only to convince the world what his Majesty's *broods* could do if they pleased. That there was great reason to fear the unhappy *Gosling* had some under-hand dealings with his Majesty's enemies, which he also feared had dispersed itself, he said, throughout the whole *brood*, as not one of them had *the heart to cackle*; for which he thought it was hard he should be accountable. That the present infamy which it reflected was, he hoped, only like a heavy cloud before sun-shine, as his Majesty's *Geese* he said might retake it with greater honour, &c, &c.

That the *Rams*, and their kindred, he said, were always so loud in *bleating*, *braying* and *cackling* against his most sacred Majesty and himself, he thought it his duty to procure a party to *bleat*, *bray*, and *cackle* against them, that whatever he bestowed at such a season in support of their pretensions to the *spot* on which they had a *mind* to *clap* their *claw*, was always

always out of his own private stores, and never any part of his Majesty's treasures. That tho' he supported their pretensions, in manner aforesaid, he always did it in the most clandestine and private manner he could, never appearing in person in their behalf; that he confessed he had been at great expence upon this account, and had many hard struggles for several *spots*, but that he never desired to have *murder* committed upon the occasion, tho' he never *punished* it, except in the *opposite party*; that he hoped he was the more excusable in this method; as it was by it alone he had so long preserved his head. He confessed it was a small *breach* of the *constitution* without which no *Fox* could ever *gain his ends*. He was very sorry, he said, publick affairs went *so very wrong*, but tho' they never *hit right* he always *advised* and *acted* to the best of his *ability* and according to his *capacity*, &c. That the continual increase of the forest *corn in debt* he could no way account for, but hoped a remedy would be soon found against it; and as to his Majesty's stores being exhausted, he never applied any
to

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to his own use, tho' he could have done what he pleased with them, but that he believed

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And lastly, he said, he hoped that it was not criminal, nor could it be called treason in him to make the best of his way from a kennel of hounds; which had been let loose after him; that he never had a thought of treason against his lawful sovereign the *Lion*, but retired into his castle for his own safety; neither did he know, he said, the *royal Whelp* was so close at his heels, for he never looked once back on his pursuers.

That self preservation is the first law of every *beast*, and that else he never had a thought of rebellion; but had given his Majesty sufficient proofs of his attachment to him; that he never thought his loyalty could be called in question, when his diligence was so well known, in conveying and propagating *Peaches* and *Nectarins* (however wanted for use at home) in the forest of which his Majesty is so fond, and rooting up the turnips, and every impoverishing weed which grew there. I have nothing farther to add,

says

says he, but most humbly submit to your Majesty's clemency.

The MORAL.

By the foregoing chapters we may see that politic persons dissemble their fear till an aggravation of their crimes makes them relent, and further that riches puff up, and when men of low degree attain to great wealth and honour (they knowing not how to bridle their inordinate appetites) very often aspiring higher ruin themselves, as by this history is plainly evident.



C H A P.



C H A P. XXIII.

THE *Fox* and *Wolf* stood unaccompanied by any other, every beast (even such as held them almost in adoration) deserting them and joining the general *bray* against them, except dame *Rook-naw* the *She-ape*, with whom he was thought to have criminal conversation, who being in high favour at court, stood up and thus addressed his Majesty.

My lord the King, you ought not to be possessed with anger when you sit in judgment, for it becometh not *nobility* to be void of *reason*; *discretion* only should accompany every *beast* in that season. For mine own part I know the *law*, I think as well as some *beasts* who wear a nobler *fur*, revere and practise it as well as any. Freedom of speech and without interruption is a peculiar privilege in which I ever have been indulged, and perhaps the more so in that I never utter any thing beyond my knowledge or experience. It is the *Yabco's*

opi-

opinion that princes are obliged to act with justice, nor should the *law* be strained to *partiality*. I am apt to think should every *beast* who standeth here call to remembrance the actions of his life, he could not but have pity for unhappy *Reynard*; therefore I would recommend to every *beast* to know himself, and call to mind the mutable existence of our lives, since none, however high, can be secure from falling; and for him who never erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment. To be reclaimed by counsel when we act amiss is nobleness of mind, but to trespass and persevere in iniquity or gallop on to wickedness, is devilish and unsufferable. Mercy is a jewel which should be worn by Kings, and I am told that *even mankind* have laws which much enforce it. Rebellious as they are to their creator they have a tenet given them from *above*, *Be merciful and judge not lest you should be judged*. The sinful woman of *Samaria* stood guilty for rank adultery, yet no stone was cast, none being found to cast it on her Redeemer's terms. The case, methinks, is parallel to day, for numbers here are crowded, who see the *straw* in *Reynard's* eyes, forgetful of the *beam* which is in their own.

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But goodness never forsaketh her own servants. Would every *beast* but lay this counsel to his heart, the day would not appear so very cloudy, or tempests hang thus over *Reynard's* head. It is a truth well known, his *Sire* and *Grandfire* and all his predecessors (some of whose skins were not a little *woolsey*) have ever been in high esteem at court, whose counsels were regarded, and their wisdom noted beyond comparison with any other *beast*. And yet even they, I will with boldness speak it, are cast behind by *Reynard*. The passages of the forest are to them like prophecies which they understand not, and the court, I fear, will topsy-turvy turn by *Reynard's* fall. The evil *beast* inured to every wickedness may hope preferment, while the good, alas! are cast disregarded by; if unhappy *Reynard* is given up a prey to all his enemies, and I fear the end will terminate in the ruin of your Majesty and the forest. To this speech the *Lion* replies, madam, had the *Fox* been guilty of those offences against you which he hath done to me particularly; and to many others, your excuse would then be couched in other terms and of another nature; I cannot but condemn him; since

since to him is owing every ill which has befallen our forests, and all indignities against our crown. You have heard his accusations, how can you then defend him? Examine to the bottom of his heart, and you will find it filled with all the deformity of horrid treason, direful oppression and rapaciousness. Forsaken of his friends, by all deserted except yourself alone, and that you singly stand so strong an advocate exacts my wonder. What friend or what companion ever had he whom he did not betray? Even me his best—On whom did he e'er smile, without dashing out his eye with his tail in the end.

To this the *She-Ape* replied. My Lord, I love him, and have ever born him singular affection; and I can well recount among a number, yet one noble action which he did in your Majesty's presence, for which then you thanked him, though now forgotten. The heaviest matter ever weighs the most, and *beasts* should keep a measure in their affections, and not live or hate with violence. Constancy is the greatest ornament of a prince. We should not praise the day until the

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evening is past, nor is good counsel ever
available but to such as mean to pur-
sue it.

I remember about some two years
since, there came to court a *Monkey* and
a *Serpent*, to hear your judgment in a
doubtful controversy. The *Serpent* at-
tempting to go through an hedge, was
taken by the neck fast in a snare, set
by some wicked *man*, I believe for *Key-
ward*. The *Serpent* so caught saw no
possibility of escaping with life. A cer-
tain *Monkey* passing by, the *Serpent* ear-
nestly intreated him to help him out, or
he should perish speedily. The *Monkey*
moved with his mournful crying, and
taking pity of his helpless state, agreed
to release him, upon express condition,
confirmed by faithful promises and oaths,
that he the *Serpent* never should do in-
jury by tooth or tail, or any other
poison about him, to him the *Monkey*,
neither at that present time, or any
time thereafter; upon which terms the
Monkey soon released him, and set him
free. They went into the *forest* and
were companions for a length of time,
still travelling together. At last the *Ser-
pent*

pent grew exceeding hungry, and rushing upon the *Monkey* would have killed him, but he started aside, and asked, what meanest thou to do? Hast thou forgotten all thy promises and oaths? The *Serpent* replied, no: But I may justly kill thee since I am compelled thereto by hunger which cancelleth all obligations. Then said the *Monkey*, if it must be so, yet give me leave to live until we meet with the next passenger who shall be judge between us, and may decide the controversy: The *Serpent* agreeing to this, they travelled on until they met with *Tifellin* the *Raven*, and *Slinopere* his son; to whom relating the difference the *Raven* adjudged that the *Serpent* should eat the *Monkey*, hoping that himself and son should also get a share. But the appellant *Monkey* said, how shall he that is a *robber* and lives by blood, be an impartial judge in such a cause? It is not the prerogative of one to do it, for divers should be judges, such as are versed in equitable laws; for such alone must judge of our contention. The *Raven* is neither just or indifferent. They then still travelled on till meeting with the *Bear*

and *Wolf* to whom they also soon disclosed the matter; and they soon adjudged against the *Monkey* likewise. Then the *Serpent* began to cast his venom at the *Monkey*, who leaping away, said, you do me wrong thus to attempt to kill me. The *Serpent* said, I do thee none; hath not judgment gone twice on my side? Yes, said the *Monkey*, by such as are murderers themselves, and such as never kept or regarded promises or oaths, but I appeal to the court, let me be tried by our King, and what judgment he passeth, I will willingly abide by it. To this they all consented, and came before your Majesty, and the *Wolf's* two children came with their father. The one named *Empty-Belly*, the other *Navel-full*, because they sought to devour the *Monkey*. So the full process of the matter was declared to your Majesty, but by the *Monkey's* kindness and covenant, the *Serpent's* danger and breach of faith was occasioned through the extremity of hunger; remember how much your Majesty was perplexed with their difference, and all your *council* also. For the *Monkey's* sorrow, and the

Serpent's

Serpent's hunger, the *Monkey's* goodness, and the *Serpent's* ingratitude equally raised much pity in your bosom. But in the end such doubts arose, that not any beast at court was able to determine it; at length when none could else decide it, you commanded the noble *Reynard* to decide the business. *Reynard* who then was *Oracle* of the court; for nothing was received, but what he propounded. Lord *Reynard*, then in high esteem indeed, acquainted your Majesty how impossible it was to give true judgment according to their relations, but that if he could see the *Serpent* in what manner he was ensnared, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to give judgment therein. Then your Majesty commended him, loud were his eulogies then indeed, for the whole court applauded, then your Majesty taking him by the paw, said, Lord *Reynard*, how greatly I approve what you have spoken. Let it be put in execution straight. Then went the *Monkey* and the *Serpent* to the place where the *Serpent* was snared, and Lord *Reynard* commanded the *Serpent* to be fastened as before, which being done,

and your Majesty beholding, said, Lord *Reynard*, how do you now determine? *Reynard* replied, they being now in the same state they were before at their first encounter; there is neither gain, or loss to either. Therefore if it be your Majesty's pleasure, I pronounce that if the *Monkey* will again unbind, or free the *Serpent*, upon the same oaths and promises before or formerly made unto him, he may use his pleasure; but if he thinks that hunger or other inducement may incite him to betray his faith, and break his oaths and promises, then may the *Monkey* go wherever he will, most freely leaving the *Serpent* bound and inthralled as he found him first, for it is fit that ingratitude be so repaid. This judgment then your Majesty applauded for the most excellent discharge of justice ever known, and held the wisdom of the *Fox* inimitable; declaring him the preserver of your honour. Whenever did the *Bear*, the *Wolf*, the *Hare*, the *Cat*, or any other of the court the like? They can howl, brawl, steal, rob, and devour delicious morsels, and stretch their guts upon another's ruin; condemn him to death

death who steals a chicken, while they themselves go safe, who kill swine, kine, oxen, horses and every valuable kind of beast, their deeds and statutes precedents and monuments, and yet wherever virtue is to be exercised, such constantly are foremost in retreat. They push the simple forward, while they follow with shame, dishonour and cowardice. Such are the fools, and such the ways, my liege, of these corrupted times, yet destroy *castles*, *forests* and *beasts*, nor care they whose habitation burneth so they can warm themselves by the flames; bending alone their sole aim at profit. But *Reynard* the *Fox*, neither a corrupted minister, or traitor, he and his family I say, my liege, have ever made the honour of the King their aim, his renown, and the advancement of his glory their chiefest study, whose counsels were applied, for his service, without pride or ostentation. Such is and has been *Reynard's* hourly practice, though only thanked with accusation and accumulated crimes. But time, my liege, I hope will prove him spotless, and set his merit in full view to light. He stands enobled by your

Majesty, but setting that aside, the whole forest must confess that *Reynard* is descended of no ignoble race, no mongrel breed, like numbers of the court; the honour of his pedigree is great, to which your Majesty can be no stranger; his friends have ever had dependence on him, and for his safety would their lives endanger. Myself, my liege, although another's wife, would spill my blood for *Reynard*, so would the *Ape* my *Husband*; in any cause but treason, of which I think him clear; I have besides three blooming, comely and beautiful children; and I will boldly say few courtiers wear either so honest or so fair a face, as either of them; of valour most approved, and high renown in arms; yet for his sake would I adventure them, however I love them with as dear affection as ever mother loved her children. My eldest son is *Bitalas*, who is an active and a nimble *Ape*, my second *Fulrump*, and my third a daughter, called *Hartanot*, who needs no varnish to set off her beauty, who, tho' she never used one *cosmetic*, neither paint or brush, is to the full as fair perhaps, as any

any *Ape* who does. These three, my liege, are dear, are loving and engaging to each other. And with this she called them forth unto her, saying, come hither my dear children, my pretty smiling beauties, and join in suit with me for noble *Reynard*. Come all the residue, his and my kindred, come and be low petitioners to the King. Then came forth a vast number of other *beasts*, as the *Otter* and his wife, tho' they had formerly taken part with the *Bear* against the *Fox*, but now they dare not but petition, intimidated by dame *Rooknaw's* interest: The *Squirrel*, and the *Ferret*, because they loved *poultry* as well as the *Fox* joined in the *petition*; with above twenty other *beasts*, tho' not one for *Reynard's* sake alone. Then came also dame *Atrot*, and her two sisters; the *Weasel*, and *Harmel* the *Ass*, the *Brock*, the *Water-Cat*, and many to the number of almost an hundred, who all stood by *Reynard* with as much seeming sorrow and affection, as if they had been of his kindred, and involved in his crimes.

Then the *She-Ape* again addressed his Majesty,

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Majesty, saying, my liege, you still behold what friends avow Lord *Reynard*, and all your loyal and approved subjects, so faithful in their service and allegiance. Therefore let us with united *bray* implore your Majesty, but if the crimes imputed to his charge amount to *facts*, let the *law* take its course, we never will repine at his destruction. Madam, replies the *Lion*, I must confess you boldly plead for *Reynard*; but you see so many facts made plain, of treasonable practice and rebellion, which threatened such a ruin to all our forests, that it is inconsistent with our safety, dignity and honour, to grant his pardon.

The MORAL.

By the *She-Apes* answering for the *Fox* is shewn how apt weak women are to be flattered into any belief in which they may either express their pain or gain glory. Also it shews according to the verity of the old proverb, *that a friend in court is worth a pound in a man's purse*. By the violence of her defence is

is shewed the true nature of a woman, who evermore runs into extremes, and so she may do the good or evil she intends. will not keep any thing concealed, which may any way make for her purpose, nor yet any thing unurged which may disgrace those who are of a contrary faction, as appears by the tale of the *Monkey* and the *Serpent*, in which she endeavours to shew the wisdom of the *Fox* and the folly and disability of his enemies.



CHAP.



C H A P. XXIV.

AT which the *Fox* seemingly undaunted stedfastly looked upon the King, who roars out, false miscreant, how darrest thou so audaciously hold up thy head who art the vilest of all living creatures? Was it not sufficient, wretched traitor, to insinuate into my affections by your foul arts and base dissimulations, misleading and deceiving me in all things; engaging me not only to raise the monstrous wicked and ungrateful *Wolf* to an high office, fit for the best of creatures, and which should be filled by beasts of merit only; but to bestow such titles too upon him, as even degrades nobility? By the same arts you led me on by *Bruin* who ill deserves a title, all for your own base purpose, all for ends which never will, I hope, nay cannot be accomplished. Have I heaped honours on your head for this? could any creature breathing once have thought that

that *Reynard* whom I honoured most, whose paw directed every action for me, would have conspired my ruin? What canst thou farther answer for thy treason? To this the *Fox* said not a word, but at length hanging down his head, the King pressed him to speak if he had any thing farther to say, before he pronounced sentence against him; at last the *Fox* said, my liege, I have so many enemies, that it will be in vain to attempt to say any thing farther contrary to what they affirm, and since I know I am to die, I here before your Majesty declare I am guilty of what is laid to my charge, and infinitely more than now is brought against me; for which I am sincerely sorry, and most humbly beg your Majesty's pardon. It is enough said the King, *Reynard*, you shall die. Then asking the *Wolf* if he had any thing to say for himself why sentence should not pass upon him, he answer'd he had nothing to say, but submitted to the King's mercy; since he also was guilty of infinitely more than was laid to his charge, having never had a thought he said for the good of the forest, or the honour

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honour of his Majesty &c. &c. Then the
King himself proceeded to judgment,
sentencing *Reynard* first in these words.
Reynard, because you have been guilty
of treason against our royal person and
endeavoured the subversion of our go-
vernment and dignity, I condemn you
to death, in this manner to be executed
upon you. First, you shall be dragged
from this place contumeliously to the place
of execution, and there your right *paw*
shall be cut off, afterwards you shall
be hanged by the neck until you are
dead, dead, dead. After death your
head shall be cut off, and together with
your right *paw* set up in public view,
in some conspicuous place for a terror
to all traitors for the future. Upon the
Wolf he pronounced the same sentence
in all points exactly. A few others, abet-
tors in the treason, had only the sentence
of hanging passed upon them. After
which the prisoners were remanded back,
until the *King*, by the *advice of his privy*
council, should appoint the time and place
of execution. In the evening of the
same day the *Lion* called a *council* to
consult about the place and time of exe-
cution.

cution. After long debate it was agreed it should be upon the top of an hill, near which his Majesty had a cave, where several of his royal kindred were for many years confined, and which served his Majesty for a repository for several very valuable effects. The time, the next morning early: In the meanwhile that all things should be provided in readiness, and the prisoners have notice of their approaching execution. Now when the morrow was come and the King (who was himself a spectator of this execution) was with his attendants gone to take his stand upon the most commodious eminence for avoiding the press, or concourse of the *beasts*. The *Fox* and *Wolf*, &c. &c. were led out of their several caves, with their legs tyed, and the halters wherewith they were to be hanged fastned round their necks, and thus dragged to the place of execution amidst the *braying* and *booting* of a multitude of beasts, who greatly rejoiced to see their end. The executioners nimbly climbed up the trees, for they needed no ladders, and immediately fastned the ropes to the trees ready to draw up the prisoners,

prisoners, supposing they must be hang- ed as soon as they came there, it being a new custom in the forest to hang malefactors as soon as they were con- demned; but the King speaking to the executioner, desired he would not be too hasty because he earnestly wished that *Reynard* would make a farther and more particular confession of his crimes, and addressing himself to the *Fox*, told him he had full liberty to speak if he had any thing to say before his execu- tion. The *Fox* hearing this, began his confession in the following manner.



CHAP.



C H A P. XXV.

The Confession of REYNARD the FOX.

MOST dread Sovereign, and you my Lords, and other *beasts* here assembled, it is some consolation before my execution, which to my shame I confess I deserve, for my manifold *treasons* against his Majesty, and the great *abuse* of that *authority* with which I once had the honour to be invested. It is some consolation I say to have liberty to disburden my mind of the horror of my crimes, for I have grievously offended against every *beast* of the *forest*, especially against *Bruin* the *Bear* whom I lately massacred; and *Tibert* the *Cat*, whom I ensnared in a *Gin*. I have trespassed against *Chanticleer* and his children, and have devoured many of them; I have betrayed *Ifgrim* the *Wolf*, and called him *uncle*, tho' no part of his blood ran in my veins. I made him bind his foot to

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a bell rope, to teach him to ring, but the peal had like to have cost him his life, he was beaten and wounded so sorely. After this I taught him to catch fish, for which he was also sufficiently beaten, and I believe feels the stripes to this instant. I led him to steal *Bacon* at a rich farmer's house, where he fed so extremely that not being able to get out where he got in, I raised all the town upon him, and then went where the farmer was set at meat with a fat *Hen* before him; which *Hen* I snatched away, so that the farmer cried out, kill the *Fox*, kill the *Fox*: Never was any thing so strange that the *Fox* should come into my house and take my meat from before me: This is a boldness never known before. With these words he threw his knife at me, but missing me, I ran away whilst he pursued me, crying still, kill the *Fox*, kill the *Fox*; and after him ran a numerous croud, whom I led to the place where *Isgrim* was, and there I let the *Hen* fall, tho' much against my will, (because it was too heavy for me) and then springing through an hole, I got into safety. Now as the farmer took up
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the *Hen*, he espied *Isgrim*, and then cried out strike, strike, friends, here is the *Wolf*, by no means let him escape us. Then the croud coming, with all manner of offensive weapons, hooting and hallowing with a dreadful noise, giving the poor *Wolf* many a deadly blow, and some throwing stones at him, hit him with such force upon the body that he fell down as if he had been dead; which they perceiving took and dragged him by the heels, over rocks and thro' the dirt and mire, until they at length threw him into a ditch without the village, where he lay all night, but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place, where I told him were seven *Hens* and *Cocks* set on a perch, all lusty, plump and fat, and hard by the place stood a *false door* on which we climbed; I told him if he would creep in at the door, he should find the *Hens*. Then *Isgrim* went joyfully laughing to the door, and entering in a little, and groping about, said *Reynard*, you abuse me for here is nothing. *Uncle*, I replied they are farther, and if you will have them, you must adventure

ture for them. Those which used to perch there, I myself had long since. At this the *Wolf* venturing a little farther; I gave him a push forward, so that he fell down into the house, which fall was so great, and with such a noise, that they who were asleep in the house awaking, cried, something has fallen down the trap-door; whereupon they arose, and by the light they had procured, espying him, they beat and wounded him to death. Thus in my time have I brought the *Wolf* into many hazards of his life, which as they come in course, and occur to mind I shall freely declare in the course of my confession, but cannot now remember. I have, I confess, also grievously offended against dame *Arseswind* his wife; of which I heartily repent, for it was highly to her dishonour; for I have lain with her, how often, and in what manner needs not now be told, I made the *Bear* suffer many wounds, and in particular by stripping part of his skin; I slew *Keyword*, and betrayed *Bellin*; I wounded the *Coney*, and killed dame *Sharpbeak* the *Rook's* wife; and now one more offence against the *Wolf* occurs, which

which was thus, we were walking together, and beheld a goodly bay *Mare* grazing, with a black *Fole* by her side, which was exceeding fair and wanton; the *Wolf* at that instant was exceeding faint for hunger, and intreated me to ask the *Mare* if *she* would sell her *Fole*; I went and asked the question. The *Mare* answered she would willingly dispose of it; I then asked the price, and she answer'd the price was marked in her hinder foot; which if I pleased I might see at pleasure; but I who well understood her politic anger, said, I neither understand the mark, or desire to buy your *Fole*: I am but a messenger from the *Wolf*, who hath an earnest desire to buy it. Then said the *Mare*, let him come himself, and I will give him satisfaction; then went I to the *Wolf*, and informed him what the *Mare* had said, assuring him that if he pleased he might have his belly full of the *Fole*, provided he could read, for the price was written in the *Mare's* hinder foot. Read! (said the *Wolf*) I wonder what should ail me? Can you forget, nephew, that I was head of **** and distinguished myself

myself in the late struggle for the *spot* in **** I am well skilled in sophistry and have argued learnedly upon that as well as many other occasions, and with many *doctors*. I have made many learned discourses in the **** nay, have sat in the place of judgment, have taken as many honourable degrees as any among the beasts, and am as well qualified to decipher any inscription as any beast in the *forest*; I can decipher *treason* tho' 'twere cloathed in *rags*. So desiring me to stay for him there, away he went to the *Mare*, and earnestly requested he might behold the price of the *Fole*; to which the *Mare* consented and lifting up her hinder foot, which had been newly shod with strong iron, and seven sharp nail-heads, as the *Wolf* looked thereon, mistaking the nail-heads for the letters, the *Mare* smote him so directly upon the forehead, that she tumbled him over and over, and he lay motionless while a beast might have gone a mile, which done, away trotted the *Mare* with her *Colt* leaving the poor *Wolf* bloody and wounded, where he lay howling after recovering a little. I went to him and said,

Sir

Sir *Isgrim*? dear uncle, how do you do? Have you eaten too heartily of the *Colt*? Indeed you are unkind to give me no share with you, I went on your message honestly. Methinks you have out-slept your dinner: Good uncle, tell me what was written under the *Mare's* foot? was it in prose or verse? Indeed I fain would know: I think it was a prick-song, for I heard you sing, nay I find you shew your scholarship in all the arts. Alas *Reynard* said the *Wolf*, I pray you forbear to mock or disdain me, for I am extremely wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pity me. The cursed *Mare* on her long leg hath an iron foot, with some marks upon it which I mistook for *letters*, and while I looked she hit me so full upon the head, that I think my scull is cloven; dear uncle said I, do you inform me of this for truth? believe me, you raise my wonder; why, I took you for one of the greatest learning in the forest; well I perceive the old proverb among *mankind* made good in you. *The greatest clerks are not the wisest men.* The poor may sometimes out-strip you in judgment,

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ment,

ment, and the reason is, you great scholars study so much, that you grow dull, in that you so much over-labour. And thus, with these *mocks* and *taunts*, I brought the *Wolf* within an hair's breadth of destruction. I ever thought it foolish not to fall in with fashion, and would lye, flatter, sooth, threaten, pray, and curse, to keep the weak in subjection. I never wanted art to make falsehood look like truth, fair and amiable; to lye well and with a grace; to lift up wrong above right, and never marred my own designs for want of method to give them colour, and all for hope of gain only. I will not deny but beasts may sometimes lie in matters not of consequence, for he who always speaks the truth, shall sometimes speak out of season; and tho' these practices are arts beyond description and awhile may prosper, yet as it is now this day, with me, misery and affliction are sure to come in the end.

C H A P.



C H A P. XXVI.

TO my shame, continued he, I must confess I have betrayed every confidence which his Majesty has reposed in me, and have not only been very lavish of his stores to raise me such friends whose *braying* most could serve me, but also privately made a prey of the whole forest, where not a beast escaped me, as opportunity offered, not even those who served me, having never one thought which tended to the welfare of the *whole*: my chief and only aim was to aggrandize myself, by every means I could, which led me into rapines, theft and robbery. I never preferred a beast to serve the public, and as merit was a bar to my designs I ever strove to keep it down, employing such alone, whose pliant dispositions would most readily comply with mine. As to the indictments on which I stand condemned, I confess them all, and farther that by my connivance the *Tiger* has

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gained

gained the little forest which he has so lately dispossessed your Majesty of, I having sold it clandestinely to him for three hundred thousand grains of wheat. I slew *Keyword* the *Hare* though *Bellin* died for it, and the great ruin which hath since befallen that family is all the effect of my falshood. Here the King could not help, in loud exclamation, saying 'What! have we put to death a righteous person? Alas! what have we done? To this the *Fox* answered, it is so, noble King, I am the beast who wrought so great mischief; I also persuaded your Majesty to advance the *Wolf* and *Bear* for my own ends. My liberality to them in particular and to every other beast in general who could serve me, was, at your Majesty's *expence*, taken from your *treasury* to the imbezlement of your stores and the impoverishing the forest, and under colour of being your most faithful servant was your most bitter enemy. In all the cases ever brought before me, I ever sought my own interest more than the execution of justice; and in the disposal of employments, I ever sought those who would

would serve *me* most faithfully, not your Majesty; and though your Majesty had devolved all authority upon me, that in effect I was intirely *King*, yet my ambition would not be satisfied, and not knowing myself would be what now you are, if the *Tiger* had kept his promise with me, &c. Then said the King to the *Fox*, well *Reynard*, I have heard you patiently and now perceive that if you had been executed as you, I find, deserved for your first faults, you had not lived to have perpetrated such enormous crimes; therefore for the future no *interest* or *intreaty* shall prevail with me to pardon malefactors deserving death, for 'tis an abuse of mercy. Then the King ordered the executioner to do his office, so he immediately cut off *Reynard's* right hand, and afterward turned him off. The King then turning to the *Wolf* disdainingly to upbraid him for the low circumstance from which he had raised him (for the *Wolf*, thro' the voraciousness of his appetite, was accounted a great epicure or thro' folly and extravagance had fallen into great indigence) asked if he had any thing to

say before the executioner did his office? Nothing, Sir, said the *Wolf*, (looking very roguishly) except that I was drawn in by the *Fox's* subtilty, whose large presents and larger promises made me forget all duty to your Majesty, and he having nothing more to say, or not caring to make farther confession, the executioner cut off his right hand, and then turned him off. After the traitors were all dead their bodies were cast into one pit, except the heads and right hands of *Reynard* and *Isgrim*, which were stuck upon poles in the most conspicuous part of the forest, to be seen by every beast that passed by. Never was greater joy expressed upon any occasion than at the execution of the *Fox* and *Wolf*, whose abuse of power drew upon them the hatred and resentment of every beast in the forest, and not upon them alone, but upon all their adherents. A remarkable instance of which happened not long before their impeachment. In a certain district of the forest which is peculiarly the precinct of the *horned herd*, it is a custom among them to elect a temporary Lord, governor or ruler among them-

themselves, who I think is usually elected by the suffrages of the whole *horned herd* alone, or by them recommended to the choice of a select number to be elected; nor has the *Lion* himself the privilege of interfering, or directing their choice. But as that honour was usually conferred by seniority, it seldom, except upon some extraordinary occasion, as now, created any struggle among them; when a *beast*, who may be sufficiently known by the *crookedness* of his horns, had the good fortune to clap his *paw* upon one of the *spots* already taken notice of in the course of this history, and consequently the power to *bray* for the *Fox* upon every occasion; having a right by seniority to this temporary rule or honour, was endeavoured to be set aside for the following reason. When the *Tiger* threatened loudly an *invasion* of the *forest*, the *Lion* seemed greatly inclined to call several *foreign beasts* to his assistance, to which the *horned herd* as well as thousands of others were particularly averse, and indeed none but the *sycophants* and the *corrupted* were ever for it, and many debates arose in the *assembly of beasts* upon it; but the *Fox*,

more to gratify this inclination in the generous *Lion*, who meant it for the better, than for any *real service* he thought they could do for the forest, carried it in the assembly for him, and the *foreign aid* came, were *fed*, and *looked* upon.

In some short time one of the meanest of these *foreign brutes* being detected in some fraud by a beast of note in his division, had him secured and by good advice and authority committed to prison, not by any *traders* in justice to make a *perquisite* of it, but for *equity's* sake, which the beast known by the *height* of his *horn*, who commands the *foreign aids*, no sooner understood but he demanded him with menaces and threatnings, denouncing vengeance and destruction if they refused, nay, threatening to BUTT down the prison with all his *force* if they refused, and which was probably prevented by an hasty order from ***** for enlarging the *criminal beast*, without further enquiry, however contrary to *instinct* or justice. Upon this occasion the chief of the *foreign beasts* exalted his horn very high, and brayed out in loud and bitter terms that no *Hano-turripo-ragamffino-se-*
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tonborsebacko, (for so the forest is called I think from whence they came) should ever be *subject* to one of the *laws* of this *forest*, tho' he were guilty of *rapes*, *robberies*, or even murder. This behaviour in a beast, *subject* to the *Lion*, called in to his assistance, and bred in his evidently *most valued forest*, has greatly alarmed and surprized every *beast* in *this*, and particularly the *horned herd*, who warm with resentment endeavoured, as has been already said, to set aside the *crooked horned beast* before mentioned, because he *brayed* loudly for, and was instrumental in the arrival of these *needleless, idleless, and imperious foreign beasts*. We may learn from the foregoing history that the divine vengeance will punish bad actions in the end, however slow in the execution of his purpose. The character of the *Fox* is so clearly set forth in the passages of this history, especially in his confession, that little more need be said of him; only it may be added that perhaps no beast ever had a heart readier to devise, or a hand to execute mischief, his life having in the end paid the forfeit of his treason. The *Wolf*, whose subtilty was far short of the *Fox's*, so that he

he had wherewith to support his pride and indulge his appetite, cared not how it came, or by what indirect means, so that he by any means could obtain it. This temper, or rather voracious appetite in the *Wolf*, seems to have reduced him to great extremity till by the favour of the *Lion* he was raised to affluence and dignity, but his ingratitude drew on the death which he deservedly underwent. What followed after you have in the next chapter.



C H A P.



C H A P. XXVII.

AFTER the traitors had been executed, and their heads and hands fixed upon poles, as has been said, their effects being seized became a forfeiture to the *Lion*, (too small an atonement for the injuries they had done) his Majesty in council declared his royal intention of restoring *Bellin's* kindred to his favour; and being informed that numbers of them were still living in different parts of the forest, was very desirous of seeing them at court. The whole lineage of the *Fox* and *Wolf*, says he, are ravenous and voracious animals; and although the *Fox* by his subtilty blinded my eyes, and *Isgrim* by his pretended zeal alienated my affections and my judgment, had honest *Bellin* been but still about me, the treacherous *Reynard* could never have had the power to have wrought such ruin, nor could that miscreant *Isgrim* ever have contributed to his nefarious intentions. What is best to be done, adds the King, if we give the wealth of these traitors among their kindred they may in time by
their

their opulence be able to work much mischief still. Noble Sir, replies one of the lords, to take away their wealth will have no good aspect in the eyes of the vulgar whose censure is seldom right, because they will impute their fall then chiefly to their being rich, or to speak more plainly, because your Majesty was disposed to seize all they had. Therefore, if your Majesty will be pleased to keep them from court, or any favour there, their wealth will soon consume, for they are such monstrous *gluttons*, they of course will consume all in a very little time. *Isgrim's* and the *Fox's lineage* were greatly perplexed, because not one of them were retained in office, and therefore held frequent consultations what was best to be done in a time of such affliction, but in all their consultations, they never thought of mending their manners, though by the death of *Reynard* and *Isgrim* they lost all hope of obtaining their ends, and keeping up a party spirit among the beasts: they created vast dissensions through every part of the forest, but leading a poor and miserable life for a long season, they in the end either died or were forgot entirely. The King, however, that he might not be upbraided with retaining their

their treasure, ordered a distribution of it among the beasts of the forest in general, especially those who sustained most damage by them. The King again in counsel declaring he had unadvisedly and through false accusation banished *Bellin* and his kindred from his presence, therefore he said, it concerned him in some extraordinary manner to recompence the grievous wrongs which they had a long time sustained through a great misunderstanding and too great credulity, who were made a prey to the *Fox* and *Wolf* while ourself and all our forests were brought even to the brink of ruin. These words were uttered by the *Lion* so emphatically that the whole council were much affected, and declaring how much his Majesty had it in his power to honour them, added that they themselves would readily concur in whatsoever his Majesty should determine about them.

The King said, that as all the forest must be sensible he had taken them under his protection, yet none could suppose that a sufficient recompence for the ill treatment they had so long received, and determined to care for them as much as in his power: He hoped, he said, that from his example the com-

common assembly of beasts would almost support and protect them, since he had full conviction they were the most loyal of any in the forest, and it is our royal will that all our subjects in general behave themselves lovingly and friendly towards them, and in so doing the *neck of faction* will, I hope, be broken: the *yellow* beast will not oppose the *blue*, since he is of more honesty of heart than to oppress the *yellow*; our meaner subjects will be all united in social love together, and we ourselves have greater joy than ever. This resolution of the King's meeting with universal applause, the *Ram's* kindred soon grew the greatest favourites at court, and demeaning themselves with such integrity, such zeal for his Majesty's person and the honour and welfare of the forest, that the highest hopes were entertained of such a reformation in the forest as had not been known for ages; who by their example soon wrought such a change among the noble as well as common beasts, that luxury, excess, and all their concomitants were soon forgot by all. *Bribery* and *corruption* were not so much as heard of among them, and the *Swans* being preferred upon the lakes, and *merit* only being the

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the strongest recommendation to preferment, the *Tiger* not able to gain his ends as heretofore by corruption among the chiefest about the *Lion*, and finding such a torrent of success against him, became so humble that he never after attempted to disturb the forest.

Thus have you as true an account of these matters as ever was given by any man who saw them not.

The MORAL.

We hence may learn that tho' innocence may be long injuriously treated, yet in the end the cause of the oppression will be known, and then the redress is nigh at hand. Also that prudence will advise to avoid vulgar censure, for many willingly are blinded and by cunning sycophants oppressed, because they judge of things as they appear, and not as they really are in themselves. That as evil communication corrupts good manners, so on the other hand good examples if followed produce the well-being of mankind; and lastly, that a good Prince coming once to the knowledge of the injuries done to his subjects through the perfidious actings of treacherous persons is
never

160 THE PLEASANT HISTORY &c.
never satisfied till he hath compleatly re-
compens'd that wrong as far as possible,
since the height of happiness consists in
the righteousness and unanimity of the King
and People.

E I N I S.



