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The Father to each Child explains | Their little Tongues are always running
the Jokes our merry Book contains. | On Daddy's Sense, and Fox's Cunning

THE Ch. 770/18.

pleasant and entertaining
HISTORY.

of
REYNARD the FOX;

Represented in a *MORAL* Light;

Fabulously shewing the various Devices which
cunning Men pursue,

And exciting the Innocent & Ignorant to guard against them

a Work equally humorous and instructive to the

YOUNG and the MATURE,

Embellished with 17 Copper Plates elegantly Engraved.

To see the Arts which Men devise. | Yet after all is said and done |
We ought to open both our Eyes; | We ought to try those Arts to shun.



L O N D O N.

Printed & Sold by Edw^d Ryland Printer, in the Old Bailey. Price 1.

AN INDEX, Describing the Names of the Several
Beasts &c, contained in this Volume.

The King



The Lyon

Reynard



The Fox

Curteis



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Isgrim



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Bruin



The Bear

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Corbant



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Rukenaw



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INTRODUCTION.

ATTEND, ye youths, of infant mold,
To what the following sheets unfold!
And let each little rip'ning maid,
Con o'er the morals here display'd;
For what avails each parent's care,
The tender pains, and fears they bear,

INTRODUCTION.

For those whom in the world they've brought,
If in the world they come to nought?

Attending not to education,
Nor emulating reputation,
For ruin ev'ry boy prepares,
And ev'ry miss broods future cares.

The man on whom kind fortune deigns
To smile, and crown with worldly gains;
Who, when in youth, no tutor's art,
Cou'd centre learning in his heart;
Whate'er may be his transient worth,
Howe'er he prides himself on birth;
So idiot like, so dull appears,
In all he does, or says, or hears,
That laughter dimples ev'ry face,
And he's the blockhead of his race.

And so 'tis with the tender Fair;
It matters not what charms they bear,



INTRODUCTION.

If by instruction not refin'd ;-----
The charms that last are in the mind.

She who in childhood took a pride,
To follow wisdom as her guide,
In paths of folly never strays,
But happily lives all her days.

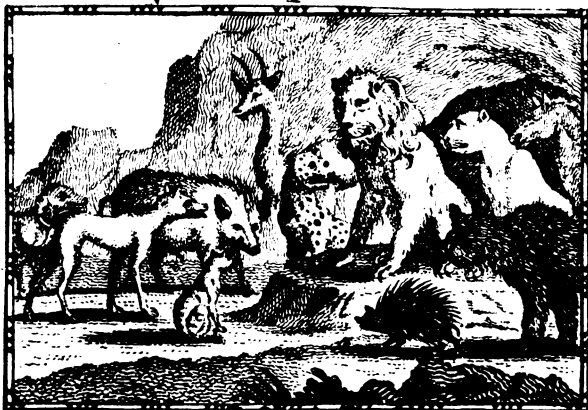
We give the hist'ry of the *Fox*,
But will not vouch it orthodox ;
“ Truth under fiction we impart,
“ To weed out folly from the heart,”
And as it aids the infant mind,
So we obtain the end design'd.

Reynard's a mighty cunning creature,
Yet acts consistent with his nature ;
'Twere not amiss, avoiding jokes,
If so 'twere found in human folks ;
Many, tho' blest with wit and sense,
To reason claim but poor pretence.

INTRODUCTION.

Pray don't imagine, little readers,
We in the *Fox's* cause are pleaders;
Too well we know his subtle ways,
To give the wily culprit praise;
So print his various pranks to shew,
What *Foxes* on two legs may do;
To warn ye not to treat with such
As act their cunning over-much;
Yet teach ye, in a way that's merry,
Some prudent cunning's necessary.

In moral light our plan we fix,
And suit our tale to either sex;
In this let *Miss* and *Master* try,
To read, to laugh, and edify.



C H A P T E R I.

The Lion issues out his royal Mandate, that all the Beasts of the Woods, Fields, and Forests, shall convene at his Palace of Sanden, to partake of his annual sumptuous Banquet, in Commemoration of the Feast of Pentecost.---Several Beasts make grievous Complaints against Reynard.

IN that pleasant season of the year, when nature, proud to display her own beauties, puts on her best attire, cloathing the woods

in green, inspiring the warblers of the grove to sing, and painting the meads and plains with flowers; at this happy time, the noble Lion annually invited all his subjects to court, to enjoy luxuriant festivity; the beasts all joyfully obeyed the invitation but the Fox; who conscious of the many tricks and stratagems he had played on many who would be there present, and dreading their accusations to his monarch, kept himself snug in his hole: His suggestions proved very true; Isgrim the Wolf first opened his complaint in the following words:

Most mighty sovereign! Reynard the Fox has done me and my wife irreparable injury, yesterday when I was absent, he made forcible entry into my house, abused my loving wife, and made water in the eyes of my children, which water is of so rancorous and poisonous a nature, that they are now, and will all their lives, be totally blind: I humbly crave your majesty's pity and redress.

Then the Hound declared, that in the last cold season, when the frost was so severe, that he was deprived of all manner of prey, and

had only one poor pudding left, he, the said Reynard, by stratagem conveyed it away, and devoured it; for which he begged of the king proper satisfaction.

My liege! replied Tibert the Cat, who by the by, was to the Fox a sort of distant relation, I am much grieved to hear such accusations against Reynard, especially as he is not present to answer for himself; as to the complaint of the Hound, relative to the loss of his pudding, it is trivial and malicious, I stole the pudding, in the dead of night, from the mill; the Hound stole it from me; therefore the Fox is not so very culpable, since he only played at rob thief.

Then arose the Panther; royal sire! says he, all the world knows that Reynard is a villain, an adulterer, a murderer, in short, every thing that is infamous; how basely did he behave to poor Kayward the Hare, a few days since? Kayward, says he, you'll make a good chaplain, step here and I'll teach you to sing psalms; so saying, he made the Hare stand on his hind legs, and catching him by the

throat, would certainly have strangled him, had not fortune providentially sent me to his rescue : If offences like these are suffered with impunity, your wisdom, oh king, will be arraigned ! and an odium cast on your posterity. This Isgrim the Wolf, by applauding the speech, much strengthened.

The M O R A L.

This shews conscious guilt is afraid of the light,
 True innocence never seeks refuge by flight ;
 It proves a mean soul, maugre all contradiction,
 And is of the crime that's alledg'd a conviction ;
 For who wou'd be branded with running away,
 That cou'd make their case clear as the sun at
 noon day.

'Tis better to face what is laid to our charge,
 Than by absence give leave for our foes to
 enlarge.



CH A P. II.

Shewing the assiduity Grimbard the Brock takes to obviate and supercede the Charges already laid against his Relation Reynard.

MAY it please your majesty, says the Brock, the Wolf is envious and malicious, those of that disposition never speak well of friend or foe, then turning to Isgrim, continued he, have you not falsely accused the Fox, my worthy kinsman? had all your crimes been divulged, you would not have

been here now to scandalize the innocent; you cannot forget the time when you robbed him of a fine *plaiice*, gobbled it up, and left him only the bones, to which you knew he had an aversion:---Had he a right to the fish? certainly, for he ventured his life to obtain it, by jumping into the cart: I wish you had eat all the bones; they might possibly have troubled your throat, and occasioned a grievous howling.---Remember the torture you felt when a bone stuck in your throat; which the Crane very kindly, with her long bill took out, what reward did you give her for saving your life? Why truly you told her, that she was amply recompensed for her trouble by your not biting her head off, when her neck was down your gullet, and she all in your power; may it please you, my royal master, I will just mention another particular, which in villainy, I humbly apprehend, exceeds what I have already mentioned; my kinsman one day, in very hard weather, when all provisions were scarce, ventured near half way up a farmhouse chimney, and brought away, at the hazard of his life, a sitch of bacon, which

he left in Isgrim's care, while he went to fetch another; in which attempt he was very near being taken, and so returned unsuccessful, but assured himself of making a hearty meal on what he had already the good luck to obtain; when to his great disappointment and misfortune, that ungenerous Wolf, whom Reynard intended to be partaker with him in the repast, as he declared, he was almost starved, had in his absence, betrayed the trust reposed in him, and eat it all up; my kinsman was too pious and good to reproach him for his dishonesty, but giving a deep sigh, bemoaned there was so much villainy in the world, and went in search of other provender; Isgrim might well guess his intentions, knowing him to be both wearied and hungry, so followed him cautiously at a distance, and seeing him go into a sow's sty, who the day before brought forth nine fine pigs, he lurked slyly behind an hedge till his return; my kinsman being an excellent songster, and the sow dearly loving music, he sung to her so harmoniously, after the private chat of the day was over, that he sung her to sleep, and as she, sow-like, made him not the

least retaliation for his melody, and as he himself was more of the gentleman than to disturb a fair lady's repose, he only borrowed a sucking pig, as a recompence for the time he had spent in entertaining her, and went away contented : the Wolf immediately ran up to him and, robber-like, took it from him by force ; my unfortunate relation returned back to the sty, in hope of obtaining another pigling ; but the Sow being awaked, and missing one of her children, not only abused him, and called him many ill names, but almost clawed and bit his hide off ; so that by his howling, and her grunting, the farmer, himself, was alarmed, and came to know the reason of the uproar, who immediately secured my poor kinsman, ordered one of his men to put him into a sack, and have him baited to death by the dogs of the butchers, in the market place ; but Reynard had wisdom enough to make his escape out of the bag by gnawing a hole in it ; so left the clod-hopper to bear the sack to market without him, which, after he had declared the business for which he came, made all the crowd ready to

burst with laughter, at the merry trick the Fox had played on him.

Another accusation, may it please your majesty, of the Wolf's might appear much against him, could I not positively contradict it; he complains of some great freedoms which Reynard has been guilty of to his wife: How can this be? when it is well known, that he loved her, and she him, seven years before this complainant, Isgrim, married her, therefore he must not only be deemed a fool, for making such an assertion, but subject himself to everlasting ridicule.

What a frivolous narration, continued he, has the Hare made? why truly, my kinsman was to learn him the art of Singing; now Mr. Hare being very thick-headed, notwithstanding he plumed himself on his good ears, could not, by trouble or persuasion, comprehend what his music master meant, so that moderate correction became highly necessary for him, and pray where is the school-boy who does not now and then, through indolence or wantonness deserve a little? indeed,

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those turn out always happiest in the world, who deserve it the least.

The Hound has comically reflected much on my kinsman, amongst the rest; "truly he cajoled him out of a pudding;" likely enough; but did not that Dog steal it from the Cat? my uncle therefore would have hung him up, knowing him to be a thief, but desisted from the action, being fearful of incurring your majesty's displeasure, by putting the laws in execution, without your royal approbation and authority.

He instantly obeyed the royal proclamation for a cessation of arms; thanked heaven that such a glorious circumstance, which he had so long prayed for night and morning, was at last, through your majesty's great wisdom, fortitude, piety, and humanity, so compleatly and satisfactorily concluded! 'Tis true, there was a time, when youth and highness of blood provoked him sometimes to be deaf to the voice of reason, and to commit some little levities, which though they might be deemed natural, and rather winked at by sovereign authority, still pressed heavy on his consci-

ence: the instant he had committed any trifling folly, he paid dear, very dear for it, by reflection; for my part I deem this a proof of his great understanding and goodness of mind; for the hardened sinner and fool can never reflect at all. How often have I heard him extol your majesty, and your subjects' dearly beloved and amiable consort, for the uprightnes and unparalleled wisdom on which all your ordinances and univervally admired dispensations are founded.

Besides, most gracious sire, he has lately turned monk, and commits no act but what the priest allows and sanctifies; he has made over to charitable uses all his wealth, quitted his castle of Malepardus, lives entirely, hermit like, on the alms he receives from good people; and is almost worn to a skeleton by fasting, penitence, and prayer.

M O R A L.

The greatest of villains, thro' interest or blood,
Can always find some to preach up that he's
good;

This plainly appears in the speech that's the
Brock's,

Because he's related, and wealthy the Fox :

Thus statesmen and courtiers will plead
for their friends,

In hopes to accomplish some sinister ends ;

Thus black can be white, white black can
appear,

By sophistry pour'd into majesty's ear ;

A monarch may deem *that* a patriot in-
tention,

Which in the long run may prove subtle
invention :

This often makes justice too lenient to sin,

Which *king Lion* had prov'd had the Cock not
came in.



C H A P. III.

Chanticleer makes his Complaint to the King, relative to the cruelty of Reynard, who had murdered Copple, his Wife, bringing her dead Carcase on a Bier, and all his feathered Children in Mourning, to excite his Majesty's Pity and Resentment.

THE Lion, on the favourable representations, made by Grimbard the Brook; in behalf of the Fox, in some measure, induced him to believe Reynard not altogether

so guilty of the various offences which had been attributed to him; but unluckily for him, at that instant, who should arrive at the palace, with fresh accusations, but Chanticleer the Cock, with his dead spouse, prepared for interment, and all his feathered family in funeral solemnity? Chanticleer and his progeny kneeling, thus addressed his majesty,

Most gracious monarch!

The injuries I and my family have received from that vile deceitful monster Reynard, are not only such as can never be attoned for, but unparalleled and inhuman: In the spring of the last year, when nature appeared in all her glory, and I had a plentiful stock of children, all hatched by my poor dear dead Cottle, now in your royal presence, I ventured, dreading no harm, to lead them out of our well fenced yard, guarded by six sturdy mastiffs, for the benefit of the sun, into an adjoining field, the Fox had made several attempts to scale our wall, but was always repelled at the expence of his hide, by our true soldiers the dogs, but coming artfully into the field, which was but a little way off,

he surpris'd us all, and ran away with four of my most promising and beloved offspring: After that malicious wicked robbery and murder, we kept close within the inclosure of our tenement, as we well knew he dared not, at the peril of his life, there to infringe on us; but, alas! how often does the finess and chicanery of a deceitful and artful enemy elude the vigilance and circumspection of the most undaunted warrior. He came a few days since to our gate, dressed in the habit of a pious hermit, all in black, counting his beads backwards and forwards, seemingly enrapt' in all the fervent devotion of a fryar. he told me he was full of contrition for the murders and robberies he had committed on many of your majesty's subjects, but on the poor chickabiddy part of the creation in particular; that he was going a long pilgrimage to do penance for past offences, and to punish the more wicked part of him by watching, fasting, and prayer: he then much intreated me to open the wicket, and let him in, had I not known his deceitful ways before, my

great good nature might have induced me to consent to his desire; he observing my diffidence, cry'd, brother Chanticleer, entertain not the least doubt of my veracity, nor honesty; for I cannot pursue my former base methods and intrigues now, if I would, his majesty's pious wisdom has entirely deprived me of the power, and would ordain me to the gallows an hour after commitment of the least dishonourable fact; so saying, he presented to me your majesty's gracious proclamation for a general *Peace*, through all your dominions, that creature with creature might join in reciprocal bonds of friendship, and live in harmony with one another. This, having suffered so much before by his inveigling tricks, I could hardly credit: he then shewed me your royal signet annexed to the manifesto; it induced me to be no longer on my guard, nor to doubt, for that time, his penitence and truth; however my not letting him in instantly, he walked off with a religious groan, reading his creed; saying it was wicked times when a sinner begins to repent, and those who are more wicked, study every artifice to circumvent the

good intention. My heart began to melt at the ill usage he seemed to upbraid me with, and doubting not the truth of peace being proclaimed, I ventured into the field with all my little family, to take a breathe of fresh air; when on a sudden Reynard jumped out of a hedge, as we had fearlessly strolled out of the sight of our faithful protectors the dogs, seized several of my children, and carried them clear off; then returned in a few minutes back to the same place, and snapped my poor wife's head off, who now lies before your presence; he would have had her all, but the cries I made to express my grief, and the mastiffs making towards him, caused him to put his best leg foremost, by which means the carcase of my much dearly beloved Cople was preserved, to be interred in the most decent manner your majesty's great wisdom shall judge most meet.---Permit me, royal sire, to request one more favour, which is that, I and my few remaining relations may have the secret satisfaction for all our wrongs to see your royal vengeance inflicted on that

villain the Fox, that hipocritical plunderer
and subject killer.

M O R A L.

Self-love is so strongly impress'd on our mind,
That we deem ourselves right in what'er
we've design'd,

Depend on our wisdom, pursue inclination,
And oft' bring ourselves to a bad situation ;
By list'ning to stories each cunning one says,
We're render'd unhappy the rest of our days.
How often we fancy we're safe from our foes,
Suspecting no evil can wound our repose,
Yet oft' we're deceiv'd, like the Cock in this tale,
And find our security fickle and frail ;
Tho' force can't accomplish a criminal deed,
Yet vice and chicanery too often succeed.



C H A P. IV.

Informing our Readers that the King, most graciously took Chanticleer's bard Case into Consideration, and ordered his Treasurer to disburse the Expences of his Wife's Funeral.----- How the Bear was appointed one of the King's Messengers, and commanded to bring Reynard before his royal Presence:---The Artifice the Fox played on Bruin, by seditiously regaling him with Honey, which caused him to return to Court unsuccessful, and Tybert the Cat to be sent to Malepardus in his stead.

THE heart of the royal Lion began to melt at the lamentable story told by the Cock, relative to the murders and inhumanity of the Fox, and his depredations on the *Cock-a-doodle-doo* family; then looking at the Brock, who had laboured so very hard in behalf of his relation, with a countenance full of malignity and grandeur, what is your opinion now Grimbard? says he, are these atrocious crimes proofs of his reformation? are these the Effects of counting over beads? of fasting, prayer, and mortifying the carcase for the welfare of the soul? how dared you to utter in my presence a single sentiment in favour of so blood-thirsty a traitor? I am determined, and swear by the dignity of my sceptre, to punish the culprit most severely.--- Our immediate business, now sir Chanticleer, is with you; your wife shall be interred with all the solemnity due to her station and rank: so saying, orders were instantly issued for all the bishops, and several other courtiers, to attend the funeral of Cottle, and for the Goat and Ram, the two most famous cathedral singers, to perform a sacred dirge over

her dreary habitation, the Grave; the ceremonial procession then began, from the palace to the burying-ground; composed of a prodigious number of mourners, all issuing forth doleful pitiful lamentations. Copple being deposited in the mansion of death, and the religious rites performed over her, sir Jackanapes the architect, by royal command erected a magnificent monument to her memory:---Yelper, esq; the poet laureat, renowned for his harmonious poetry in the woods, received orders to write her *Epitaph*, that Mr. Monkey the most expert stone-cutter in the king's dominions, might engrave it on her tomb; the artists acquitted themselves, through their great excellence, with universal approbation; the following sonorous, yet elegiac lines, contributed no trifling embellishment to the inimitable merit of the workmanship:

Here poor Copple lies,
 Very plain to all eyes;
 She was Chanticleer's wife,
 Reynard sly, took her life;
 The sad Cock sobs and sighs,
 And all comfort denies;

He proves himself true so—
Most husbands wont do so.

The royal Lion now summoned his privy council, and all the wise grandees of his court, in order to consult in what manner Reynard should be punished for his various offences and malefactions; as soon as the matter was debated, determined, and the assembly broke up, Bruin was commissioned by the king, with a notice under his royal signet, to repair to the castle of Malepardus, and by virtue of his deputized authority, cause the Fox to appear in the presence of his sovereign, to stand or fall, weighed in the equal scales of justice. The Bear received particular instructions to beware of the subtily and deceit of Reynard; but he gave little attention to the advice; vainly imagining himself to be furnished with a sufficient stock of wisdom and prudence to guard against all stratagems and devices; and bearing an old grudge to the Fox, was highly delighted on being fixed upon to put in execution the embassy. As soon as the sun arose the following day, Bruin, who by the by had the honour

of knighthood conferred upon him, in order to his being received with more dignity and respect, on this important occasion, arrived at the residence of Reynard, when he roared out with an audible voice, to testify his consequence and authority, being determined the Fox should come to the gate and usher him in with due honour, O yes, O yes, O yes, Reynard, Reynard, Reynard, I am sir Bruin the Bear, come ambassador, by royal commission to fetch thee to court. Therefore instantly obey the mandate of majesty, lest thou incur that displeasure and vengeance, that all my friendship for thee will not be powerful enough to avert.

Reynard heard the harangue, but for reasons best known to himself, did not chuse to pay immediate homage to the ambassador, being rummaging his mind for some scheme to embarrass the Bear, whose pretence of friendship to him, he knew was all fictitious; his project at length being fixed upon, he advanced to the gate, caught the Bear in his arms, and thus congratulated him on his arrival: my dear uncle and friend, I hope you

will pardon my not instantly letting you in, I was in the very center of my mattins; and pure religion, you are fully convinced, must be attended to, superior to any matters relative to this temporary world; you seem, sir Bruin, to have travelled at a prodigious rate; the sweat runs down your face in globules, as large as a Pigeon's egg; pray sit down on that couch and rest yourself, for you appear to be much tired; I wonder greatly continued the Fox, his majesty could cull out no meaner subject in all his dominions to send on such a trivial occasion but your noble self? however I should have soon set out for the court if you had not come, but now it gives me the greatest satisfaction possible to receive, to know that I shall have the happiness of your good company thither, and profit by the dint of your wisdom, judgment, and advice; one inconvenience, I am afraid, uncle, you will find in my journeying with you, which is, that since I have abstained from eating any kind of meat provisions, and betaken myself to a different diet, my paces, through the weakness of my body, will be

slow and tiresome to you; never mind that, answered Bruin, I make not the least doubt but that we shall travel very agreeably together; but nephew, you mentioned something about a new diet you had brought yourself to; pray inform me what that may be; only honey, cried the Fox, only honey: at this the Bear capered for joy, as Reynard well knew he would; all the shaggy breed being amazingly fond of it; I found, continued the Fox, by accident a great quantity of it; it is not more than a walk of five minutes to where it is deposited, and if you chuse, we'll immediately go there: this being agreed to, they both set out to regale on the delicious repast.

Now be it observed, courteous reader, that Reynard a few days before had pilfered a fowl or two from the yard of a carpenter, about a quarter of a mile distant; wherein he took notice of a large tree, which was split about half-way up, and a large wedge put in it to keep it open; but if that were taken out the tree would instantly close, aye,

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thought the Fox, let me once catch Bruin's head there and I am satisfied.

Being arrived at the place Reynard shewed the Bear the tree; put your nose in there uncle, says he, there is some part of it, and when you have done with that, I'll shew you the remainder; Bruin, forgetting the admonition of his king, to be guarded against the artifices of Reynard, after promising him to be his counsel at court, to retaliate his great kindness, eagerly thrust in his head, and part of his neck; the Fox instantly slipt out the wedge, and jammed him in the cleft, then walked off laughing, advising him not to be too free with the honey, lest it might cause him to be surfeited: confusion and revenge now made the Bear distracted; he cursed Reynard for a villain, and his own self for his credulity: his grievous and lamentable roaring brought men, women, and children, armed with fire-shovels, tongs, pokers, and various other weapons of vengeance, around him; who all began furiously bastinadoing him: unfortunate Bruin knew not what to do; to extricate himself was next to an im-

possibility; he struggled and struggled, bit all in vain; at last, perceiving his life in danger, he gave one desperate tug, which disengaged him from the pillory, at the expense of his ears, the skin of his face, and his two fore paws; he then hobbled as fast as he could to the river, flinging down all before him, and driving the parson of the parish, his wife, and many others into the water; when he came on the other side who should he see but his friend Reynard, watching for prey near a farm-house yard; oh, thou villain, he cried, thou shalt dearly pay for this ill usage; will you have any more honey, uncle, says the Fox, you would not adhere to my advice; how could you eat so voraciously all at once: this taunting of Reynard's much enraged the Bear, who being unable to pursue him, had no means to gratify his revenge; he then, while the blood flowed copiously down his face, being unable to use his legs, rolled over and over, like a posture-master, to the royal palace of Sanden: The courtiers were all amazed at the horrid spec-

tacle he appeared, nay the Lion himself was some time before he could be brought to believe that he was really the ambassador he sent. At length, after hearing the piteous tale of the Bear, and the cruelty that had been practised on him, his choler rose, and indignation burned against Reynard in his heart; sir Bruin, says he, I am sorry for your deplorable situation, but in some measure you merit it; did not I myself forewarn you of the deceit and villainy of the culprit I sent you to? where was your boasted wisdom and prudence? shame on you! however Reynard shall be remarkably punished for the base treatment you have received, as being one of my principal messengers: the attorney-general, and the highest rank of senators were then summoned to attend the privy-council, when their unanimous opinion was, that an outlawry should be issued forth against the Fox, as a traitor to his Sovereign; that as one part of punishment, his estate and effects might become the property of the crown.--- It was then agreed that Tybert the Cat, renowned for sagacity and seriousness, should

advance on the same errand as the Bear, to enforce the Fox to come according to royal order to the sumptuous palace of the Lion; the Cat, made a thousand apologies in order to be excused from the embassy, pleading, that if sir Bruin, so indisputably more powerful, could meet with no better treatment, his life, being so much inferior, would surely be sacrificed: the monarch paid little attention to these excuses, but giving Tybert his credentials, insisted that his pleasure should be obeyed, and-----Reader, the next chapter will tell you more.

The M O R A L.

When two vicious men bear a grudge to each
other,

However their prudence their hatred may
smother,

They'll snatch each occasion to make it ap-
pear,

As may be observ'd 'twixt the Fox and the
Bear:

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Reynard long against Bruin bore spite in his
mind,

And Bruin 'gainst him was to mischief in-
clin'd ;

He smil'd when he found himself in a condi-
tion

To triumph o'er Reynard by royal permis-
sion :

The Fox in himself was as pleas'd as the
Bear,

To catch him by honey so fast in a snare ;

Each party's a proof that revenge is so sweet,

Some wou'd venture their lives but they'd
have it compleat.

Had the Bear had discretion, nor acted the
dunce,

By thrusting his nose, head, and neck, in at
once,

His hide had been safe, and he cou'd not well
starve ;-----

But his fate is no more than all gluttons de-
serve.

So the greedy and covetous seek their un-
doing ;

Indulging our passions brings absolute ruin.



C H A P V.

Giving an Account of the ill Usage Tybert met with from Reynard:---His cunningness in indulging the Cat's ruling Passion, to accomplish his treachery, and several other entertaining Particulars.

THOUGH Tybert was not well pleased with the journey to Malepardus, yet, as it was the will of his sovereign, fear assumed the place of duty, and he was obliged to obey it: He had not proceeded many

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miles before a Martin, a bird of the Swallow kind, flew pretty near him : turn, says the Cat to him, on the right hand ; but the Martin, knowing the race of the Grimalkins to be no good friends to birds, although they dearly love them, did not chuse to oblige him, but flew diametrically the opposite way, on the left : Pufs being, like many old women, of a superstitious temper, grew very low spirited at this, imagining it foreboded disappointment and misfortune, and with a heavy heart proceeded on to Malepardus ; the Fox, on being informed of his errand, welcomed him to his residence, with the most extreme politeness ; cousin Tybert, says he, pray make as free here as if you were at your own home ; the king now indeed has acted consonant to his own good sense by sending on this business one of your complaisance and exquisite talents ; but that villain the Bear behaved in so unpolished and savage a manner that I really was afraid to trust my carcase with him, but with you I know myself safe and happy ; but pray cousin what will you please to have by way of refreshment ; I am afraid my

poor diet won't do for you; for since I am reformed, and intirely devoted to religion, I never eat any thing but honey-combs, and very sparingly of them: Indeed, replied the Cat, that food is too delicate and delicious for my palate; I think a few mice excel all what others call dainties: mice! exclaimed Reynard, come along, my dear relation, how overjoyed am I to have it in my power to oblige you! we'll go to the parson's barn, and there I'll introduce you amongst a thousand?

Courteous reader, permit us to inform you that the curate of the parish had often been pilfered by the Fox of his poultry, and observing the hole which he commonly got in at, had the day before placed a gin made of iron before it, in order to detect him, which Reynard in a reconnoitre had discovered, and so evaded.

Being arrived at the barn, the Fox shewed Grimalkin the entrance, who at first, knowing the place belonged to a parson, whose sect are renowned for craft and intrigues, seemed cautious of entering in, till Reynard

irritated him by informing him he suspected his courage, which he never had reason to doubt before; the Cat then sprung into at once the hole and the snare; the more he endeavoured to get free, the faster was he fixed in the trap; the Fox rejoiced that the scheme was so happily effected, almost splitting himself with laughter, cried out, well, cousin Tybert, how is it now, are the mice in fine order? this I suppose is a desert used at court? you caterwall finely on the strength of it, why did you not bring Isgrim with you? you and him would have made delightful harmony.

The noise poor Puss made raised the parson, his wife, servants, and all out of their beds, who ran to the barn in their smocks and shirts, believing the Fox was now certainly done for: the curate's son seizing a billet, thinking to kill Reynard at once, made a blow and deprived Tybert of his right eye; but when the candle was brought, how great was their surprize! to find the supposed Fox neither more nor less than a Cat; they then relieved the wounded Grimalkin from the

gin, and fastened her to a staple in the ground, giving him a great length of pack-thread, intending to keep him there that he might be useful in destroying the vermin; Puls, perceiving himself at rather more liberty, full of revenge and pain, flew to the parson, who was nearest him, and clawed and bit him in a terrible manner between his thighs, who instantly fell down in a fit, to the great grief of his wife in particular, and sorrow of all around him; one very assiduously chafed his temples, another administered hartshorn to his mouth and nose, and every one present was over and above officious to effect his recovery; the Cat taking advantage of this scene of confusion, gnawed the small rope which detained him asunder, and luckily made his escape, though in a miserable, bloody, and mangled condition, back again to court.

M O R A L.

By list'ning to flatt'ry we're such silly elves,
That we lay a foundation to ruin ourselves;

Had the Cat not adher'd to the Fox's parade,
 And believ'd each commendable word that he
 said;

He'd have had more precaution and t'aen
 better care,

Than thus to be caught for a Mouse in a
 snare;

And had not the Parson to mischief been
 prone,

The torture he suffered he never had known.

For tho' 'tis but prudent to be on our guard,

Against any tricks by the cunning prepar'd;

We still shou'd reflect that on ev'ry occasion,

The first of our care shou'd be self-preser-
 vation.

We meditate often revenge in our mind,

And fall in the trap we for others design'd.



C H A P VI.

Setting forth the Embassy of the Brock; the Subterfuges Reynard used before the King, and the Art by which he evaded his Sentence of suffering at the Gallows.

THE Lion finding the Fox repeatedly disobeying his commands by his special messengers to come to court, and be interrogated relative to the crimes alledged to him, grew incensed at his behaviour, and as Grim-bard the Brock had before said so much in fa-

vour of Reynard, he ordered the said Brock instantaneously to go, being the third ambassador, to Malepardus, imagining that what force could not accomplish, friendship might.

He speedily arrived at Malepardus, and after having explained the message, and bad consequence that would certainly ensue from the Fox's non-compliance, Reynard consented to accompany him to the palace of Sanden: He then took an affectionate farewell of Ermilin his wife, and after recommending of his children to her particular care, went with the Brock weeping away.

We should now intimate to our Readers, that this Grimbarde was a priest; the Fox deeply considered this, and after having gone about a mile on their journey, he fetched a deep sigh, and thus began, dear nephew, I am quite ashamed, and my conscience stings me for the various evils I have so repeatedly committed: you are in holy orders, and might if it pleased you, give me absolution, which will instill courage into me to defend myself at court against my adversaries: If it

pleased me? answered the Brock, to teach a sinner true repentance, is the delight of my heart, and the immediate duty of my function; open your mind sincerely, conceal no circumstance from me, and I'll warrant your conscience will be totally relieved: thank you, good friend, from my heart, says Reynard, and putting his hand in his pocket, pulled out a paper: this, cried he, I wrote yesterday, in a mood of piety, and your reading it will prevent my tedious repetition, in the mean time as we walk on, I'll indulge my mind in divine ejaculations; the Brock then read the account as follows:

The Confession of Reynard the Fox, late a great Sinner, now a sincere Penitent, written by himself.

That I have done great injury to many beasts, I very readily acknowledge. I brought the Bear to the very door of death by a base stratagem; I ensnared Grimalkin and was the cause of his being terribly handled and losing one eye; the Cock I have used exceeding ill

by stealing from him a great many of his wives and children; nay I have had wicked intentions even against their most gracious majesties; I played several malicious pranks on the Wolf, and made him believe that he was my uncle; this relationship he was very fond of, as he well knew me to be possessed of great wealth and property: I then cajoled him by persuading him how learned he was in all the sciences, and that no person would make so good a clerk for the parish, which post I promised to place him in: at this profession of friendship he greatly rejoiced; I then informed him the greatest art in performing the office, consisted in ringing the chapel bell, and that I would instruct him in it; accordingly one day, the verger having carelessly left the chapel door on a jar, I slyly conducted him up to the belfrey, and fastening one of his feet to a bell rope, laughed at him for being made a fool, and left him in great tribulation. The terrible and incoherent jangling he made, in struggling for liberty, raised the neighbouring cottages, and

and all the inhabitants came around him, who by their severe basting almost deprived him of life; I then, as the frost was very intense, and the ice near a foot thick, instructed him how to catch fish with his tail, by which means it froze in the pond, and laid him up with a cold and fever; I then coaxed him to the house of a wealthy parson, where I persuaded him to rob the larder of a sitch of bacon, and while he staid there, eating voraciously, I stole a hen, and being closely pursued, ran back and flung it into the place where the Wolf was indulging his appetite; so that the fate I was to have met, became his lot; my pursuers beat him till they believed him stone dead, and then flung him into a stinking ditch; however, after staying there some hours, he recovered and hopped to his habitation, bitterly cursing me; I then stole a goose, went home, had it immediately dressed, and spent the evening in great jollity with my family; not long after I played him another prank; I informed him where there were a cock and six of his wives, and

E

requested his assistance in pilfering and partaking of them, though I well knew I had made free with them all before; I then bid him stand on a trap-door that I knew was not fastened on the inside; his weight made it give way, and he fell down a well stair-case, four stories in height; the noise and his howling roused the family, and had not a back door been neglectfully left open, through which he luckily made his escape, he had certainly been murdered. Dame Tart, his spouse, I have likewise basely used; I first excited her to take the veil and turn Nun, then by a stratagem made rather too free with her, and indeed I have done so several times since Isgrim has been married to her, but not without her own condescension; this is the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and pray, worthy sir, says Reynard, now act with me as to a true penitent.

The Brock having read the account with great attention, informed the Fox that he must go through the ceremony of doing penance; this Reynard chearfully complied with; then, says Grimbard, take a small

twig from that hazle tree, and give yourself three strokes lightly on your carcase; this having performed, the Brock ordered him to jump over it backward and forward three times, without bending his legs once: this being executed; now, said Grimbard, kiss that rod as often as you leaped over it, to testify your sincerity and humility; this the Fox likewise did; the Brock then informed him that his crimes would never more afflict his conscience, and then with great joy granted him absolution: Reynard did not believe one tittle of the efficacy of this ceremony, but well knew it would be very advantageous to his interest, when the report of it should arrive at the palace of Sanden.

They had not jogged on many miles on their journey, ere they arrived at a nunnery, before which a great number of poultry were feeding; a fat capon amongst them attracted much the eyes of Reynard, and walking pretty close to her, he gave a snap at her, but she escaped his clutches. Hey-day, said the Brock, what at your old work again? is

this a proof of your penitence? I wonder, nephew, answered Reynard, you can harbour such an injurious thought about me; I only turned my head aside to view that divine nunnery, and seeing those fowls I began again contemplating how many such I have wickedly destroyed; it is very cutting to the mind of a perfect penitent, like myself, to be accused of crimes when none have been committed; and it hurts me the more as the accusation comes from my bosom friend; indeed, replied Grimbard, I believe you; but you are very sensible that the wisest may be mistaken.

M O R A L.

By the Fox's confession we plainly perceive
He laugh at the credulous Brock in his
sleeve;

So when W——d's cant doctrines rich bosoms
in flame,

A sycophant knows at what point he must
aim

To accomplish his cunning and sinister ends;
Then instantly to the like principles bends;

And certain religion good nature inspires,
 Too oft' o'er weak minds gains his utmost
 desires.

How strange it appears to all folks in their
 senses,
 That people shou'd fancy finesse and pre-
 tences
 Are pleasing to heav'n:-----that a sanctified
 air,
 Is a method effectual to carry 'em there :
 Ye hypocrites know that the author of All,
 Who sees ev'ry circumstance done in this
 ball,
 Despises each canting fanatical whim,
 Ye may cheat one another but cannot cheat
 him ;
 Tho' you lift up your eyes and fall down on
 your knees,
 Yet he wants more sincere adorations than
 these ;
 External appearance is cunning and art,
 The incense he loves must arise from the
 heart.

The Fox's attempt, when he snatch'd at
 the Capon,
 Alludes to our being so often mistaken
 In placing our confidence:—when we're
 deceiv'd,
 What reflections we utter to be so aggriev'd?
 Perceiving our weakness when brought in a
 snare,
 Which had been avoided by taking more
 care.

'Tis a fact undisputed, that most wicked
 men,
 Tho' really converted, turn vicious again.



C H A P VII.

The Arrival of Reynard at the Court of the Lion, his various Excuses for his Crimes and Misbehaviours, with other merry and subtle Circumstances.

G RIMBARD and the Fox now being in sight of the royal palace, Reynard began to quake through fear, but on reflecting that necessity had no law, he conquered his qualms, and boldly demanded the porter to open the gate of Sanden.

The King, as soon as the Fox's arrival was properly notified, sent around his special order for all the parties whom he had at any time, or on any occasion defrauded, maimed, or otherwise abused, to repair immediately to confront him, and declare their various complaints and injuries against him; on which the proper officers belonging, not only to the royal court, but the judges, the learned in the law, dukes, peers, and the most powerful and eminent in the kingdom, took their several seats, according to precedency: the Lion entered the spacious court, with the queen, and both mounted their magnificent throne; the Fox then being ushered in immediately, fell on his knees, blessed their much beloved majesties, and implored of heaven their long life and prosperity; then thus proceeded:

Conscious I am, most reverend monarch, that many of the sycophants who attend your levee, are my bitter enemies, and have, through envy and malice instilled indignation in your impartial and upright bosom, in my disfavour, and to my greatest detriment, for

what can be so heart-cutting to a good and loyal patriot, as your majesty will soon be convinced I am, as to have incendiary tales and false suggestions poured into the ear of his sovereign; but such circumstances, such impositions are practised in all courts, especially where the supreme ruler, like your majesty, has places of such emolument and importance, immediately in his own will to bestow or deprive, and inherits at once such benevolence and uprightness; but—here the king, in some degree of anger, stopt him, thou art a well known traitor, said he, and by deceit and flattery art now endeavouring to avoid the consequence of my just resentment? but thy crimes are too flagrant; thou hast too often broken the peace which was ordered so strictly to be adhered to, and thy punishment will, I doubt not, fall heavily on thee. My liege, replied Reynard, I perceive many adversaries present of weight and importance, filled with spite and revenge in their hearts against me; if through their own gluttony or avarice they rushed unthinkingly into danger, 'tis hard, very hard, the misfortunes

they suffered should be attributed to me; 'tis true the Bear was terribly mauled; but the occasion of it was his greediness for honey; had he returned to court as soon as his embassy was finished, he had not met such treatment; but he preferred the humouring of his greedy guts to your royal commands: the Cat was instigated by the same spirit of disloyalty: why did he neglect your business for the sake of a trivial Mouse or two? 'tis true he was caught in a gin and lost an eye; but his own greediness was the occasion of all this, and really he merited some punishment for so unmercifully maiming the holy and innocent parson: thus it is obvious to any one of sense, that they both brought their calamities on themselves.

Most gracious sir, my opposers are well armed against me, their weapons are falsehood and malevolence; but as you are to judge, I flatter myself their base designs will be frustrated; but should it, unhappily for me, prove otherwise, I shall even die with pleasure to obey your royal will.

The Ram and the Ewe, having with great attention heard the harangue of the Fox, requested leave of the court to step forward, which being granted, forth they came; this permission excited near a thousand of the injured parties to advance in the like manner: the Fox changed colour at this circumstance, and finding the king was not to be coaxed by soft speeches and adulation, felt the horrors, or what are commonly called the blue devils, come excessively strong upon him, and indeed he had reason on his side for such dull apprehensions.

The Lion, after having impartially heard the accusations against him on oath, and counsel on both sides, denounced him guilty, and sentenced him to be executed, as an example to other traitors, on a gibbet full twenty feet in height; and being fully convinced of the propriety of his own conduct, ordered on their separate perils, that no courtier should dare to interfere in his favour, respecting the alleviating of his intended doom: His adversaries at this were greatly pleased, but his relations, especially Grimbard, were much

discomposed, and immediately absented from court: the Lion at this grew uneasy in his mind, for even kings are, or should be afraid of dissentions amongst their subjects, and thus addressed his privy council:

“ ’Tis evident, our worthy colleagues, this Reynard has innumerable crimes and misdemeanors alledged against him, but our levee has grown thin since judgment has been past on him; for I perceive tho’ his crimes are so atrocious, yet he has still some friends remaining; we must not shake our throne; it is self-preservation in a monarch not be too precipitate in his punishments.”

Tybert, aggravated at the injuries he had received, grew almost frantic at the speech the king was making, and before it was ended, told the Wolf and Bear, who were appointed sheriffs, that it was a great shame they did not instantly put the Lion’s orders into execution, and hang the Fox up, consider, sir Isgrim, says he, he was evidence against two of your brothers, who were both executed a few years since: Isgrim at this grew piqued, and immediately applied himself to the

Lion, saying, royal sir, you gave orders for the immediate execution of this malefactor, and if they are not obeyed we, as sheriffs to you, shall be greatly censured by the multitude, the Lion reflecting on this, confirmed the sentence before passed on the Fox, and the Cat was appointed executioner.

The Fox, being now in a most dreadful situation, was obliged to summon up all his powers of art and chicanery, and thus addressed the king, " may it please your majesty, not to rest peaceably in one's grave is a terrible thing; I therefore beg permission for time to make a just and final declaration: this being thought reasonable, he thus proceeded: In my infancy none was accounted more promising than myself; I used to keep no other company than the innocent lambs in the meadows, but unhappily for me one day, sporting with a little lambkin, I nibbled it about the neck, and undesignedly drew blood, the luscious flavour of it charmed my taste, and from that instant my virtuous inclinations were reversed, nor could I be contented till I had assassinated and sucked the

juices of numbers of the harmless breed ; nor was my desire satisfied here, but I proceeded maroding among kids and fawns, and poultry of all sorts. One day, by accident, in the trunk of an hollow tree I found Isgrim half starved by cold and hunger ; I took great compassion on him, and having persuaded him that I was his nephew, a mutual friendship was settled between us ; and in conjunction we murdered some hundreds of the subjects of this realm ; a very slender portion of the plunder came to my lot ; I may rue the moment that ever I saw him :---I shewed him how to obtain his prey, and indeed was nobly rewarded for my trouble ; I can't say I wanted any, I had then and am now possessed of more riches than an hundred waggons can contain, but I despise all the sons of ingratitude :---To be sure the treasure I speak about was fraudulently obtained ; but it was still a meritorious act, for it saved you, royal sir, from being massacred, and your kingdom from becoming the property of the renegade and wicked. The queen was struck with surprize at this narration : Reynard, says

she, open the whole truth of this dreadful conspiracy, and as far as is in my power I will befriend you; the Fox, after thanking the queen for her wonderful goodness, thus went on:

May it please your Majesties!

You must have heard or read of the reign of king Ermerick, a prince penurious and avaricious, who has been dead now near fifty years: he always secreted his accumulated wealth in the earth, and he died intestate: it happened that about ten years since my poor father was closely pursued by the hounds, (happy had it been for him had so glorious a peace as is established now, been established then) he took to earth to evade his adversaries; and luckily hit on the happy spot where the vast treasure lay hidden: as riches always produce pride, this great success excited his ambition, and he despised all the beasts in the creation except the Bear: to him he resolved to shew peculiar favour, and after writing a letter ordered Tybert to proceed to the woodlands of *Arden*, in search of Bruin: the letter contained a circumstantial

account of his good fortune, and that if he would come and be his colleague, he would divest our worthy king of his crown, and place it on his, the said Bruin's head: the Bear, overjoyed at the news, came to him on wings of lightning, the Wolf, the Brock, and many others were then convened, and the conspiracy began to grow terribly formidable; the prodigious wealth of my father excited hundreds to enlist, as soldiers, under his banner, and their infernal schemes had certainly been crowned with success but for one lucky circumstance; which was this: a grand and sumptuous entertainment was made for regaling the conspirators; at this assembly Grimbard became intoxicated with liquor, and when in bed, let out to his wife the whole secret of the combination, swearing her to secrecy; but women will gossip with one another, and catching Ermelin, my spouse, at her prayers, she, after making her vow never to divulge the story, imparted it to her; my wife, woman-like, could not retain it, but, after some hums and haws, revealed it to me; your majesties will easily

conceive how this dreadful Relation shocked me, I fainted away, and when I came to myself exclaimed, " Oh, what wicked wretches there are in this World! What shall my sovereign and my queen be massacred, and my native country fall a prey to a set of villains? heaven forbid it,---no; I will at all events do my best endeavours to prevent such infernal barbarity and treason."

I had my eyes on every part of the weather cock, watching and severely punishing myself for the good of your majesties, and luckily one morning saw my father enter the cave wherein he had deposited all the immense riches I have divulged:---'tis true, he was my parent; but you, royal sir, are my king, and I apprehend all loyal subjects know where affection should be most properly placed.---My father, as I before mentioned, went into the hole; what wealth he took away I cannot be certain of; but I saw him come out of it; that was all my intention, I wanted nothing more.---This penurious parent of mine then stroaked the gravel over the hole with his

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brush, and instantly repaired to the principals of the conspiracy, congratulating them that all the riches were in the most secret safety.

No sooner had the moon arisen, but I took all my family to this repository of wealth, and by the sweat of our separate brows carried it entirely off, and deposited it directly in a place, which it is evident none but ourselves, or one of us, can discover.

My father went the next day to see that all was right, for he was staunch to the traitorous party, and discovering that he had been robbed, instantly fell down in a fit; in an hour or two after, however, he recovered and tottered home, little suspecting that myself and those belonging to me were the plunderers: we put him safe to bed, but I suppose his conscience stung him for the subversion which he intended to accomplish in this happy realm; and the next morning he was found hanging in his chamber, in his own garrets, on a bed-post at the foot of his bed; to be sure the loss of a parent affected me much, but when I reflected that your majesties were preserved by that means, my loy-

alky soon got the better of my sorrow; the
 conspirators were so struck with sadness at the
 loss of their treasure, and at his death, that
 their scheme was instantly rendered abortive,
 they discharged their military forces, and
 with regret and confusion dissolved all poli-
 tical connections with each other: thus was I
 the ever-to-be remembered happy instrument
 of preventing Bruin's mounting the royal
 seat, and retaining the crown in the line of
 so good a monarch, and so gracious a queen;
 yet how am I rewarded? why by the bitterest
 persecutions, by those who are the deepest
 traitors, who momentarily wish to drink my
 blood. Here he ended, seemingly in a very
 sorrowful and grievous condition.

M O R A L.

The cunning and artful, whate'er may be-
 fall,
 Have schemes, when in trouble, to get rid
 of all;

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Thus perfect good-nature is oft' made a
prey,

And guilt by finesse goes unpunished away ;
The Lion was pleas'd with the Fox's confes-
sion,

And thought of his wealth to gain certain
possession ;

But how he was baulk'd we shall tell ye here-
after :---

Perhaps t'other chapter will heighten your
laughter.



C H A P. VIII.

Shewing the terrible Distress which Bruin and Isgrim were brought into by the Fallacy of Reynard:---His Assassination of the Hare:---His present to the Lion:---His being preferred at Court:---The Death of the Ram, and other very singular Matters.

REYNARD had so far prevailed on the minds of the king and queen by his dissimulation, and bragging of such immense

riches, that he was ordered to be instantly released from all the apparatus and apprehensions of death; the Lion then in a friendly tone cry'd, Reynard divulge to us the place where your wealth is now deposited; it is, my liege, answered Reynard, in the forest of Hulsterto, secreted in the root of a lofty and bulky tree, deep in the bank of that spacious running stream, Creckneypit: the king then ordered his chief Geographer to inspect the map of the globe, to find out this stream of Creckneypit, but when it was pored over, no such river could be discovered; the Lion then began to be displeas'd; Reynard, says he, beware how you attempt any more deceit! what, replied Reynard, does my royal master doubt me? then turning himself to the Hare, who he well knew would chime in with his story, Keyward, says he, will you vouch for me that there are such places existing as Hulsterto a forest, and Creckneypit a stream; doubtless, returned the Hare, I remember both places, to my sorrow, very well; for I had very near been destroyed in the wilderness, and a whole melancholy win-

ter did I pass by the river's side: On the Hare's thus corresponding with the Fox, the Lion was appeas'd; Reynard, said he, you must pardon me for being suspicious, you well know I have had some reason for it, but I am now fully convinced of the veracity of your assertion, and you shall accompany me to the repository of this wealth, that it may be immediately convey'd to our treasury: Most gracious sir, replied the Fox, to accompany you would be so great an honour to so poor a subject, that my modesty would never permit me to undertake such a task, besides, were it not for that, my liege, I could by no means, without the endangering the safety of my soul; Isgrim, may it please your Majesty, some time since turned fryar, and immured himself in a monastery; by chance one day I met him, and struck with his wan and meagre appearance, enquired of him the cause; he related to me the whole story, from the beginning to end, and that he was almost starved to death; I at that time, being rather one of the wicked,

advised him to abscond, and not be perished through want in a land of plenty: He pursued my advice, knowing what friendship I bore him; and his elopement reaching to the pope's ears, his holiness pronounced a terrible curse upon me: and when I took leave of my disconsolate family and home, to lay myself at your majesties feet, I vowed to my dear spouse that if my enemies did not bereave me of life, I would sojourn to Rome to gain absolution of the pope himself; and like a pilgrim, by ejaculations and abstinence, qualify myself through mortification to have the curse justly entailed on me taken off: the Lion then told him he approved highly of his pious intention, and that the Hare, and all who knew like him the spot where the treasure lay, should attend him thither: having said thus much, he ordered the Fox to ascend the throne, and seating him next to himself, thus addressed his grandees and subjects.

My worthy servants, who grace this assembly, attentively listen to me, Reynard may have been guilty of some errors, but by his penitence has attoned for them all; repen-

tance is amiable in a sinner, and to reward it I here appoint him my prime minister, and chief of my privy council; in consequence of which I command all and every one of my subjects, on their separate perils, to pay to him and his family that duty and deference due to a person of his noble rank and quality.

His accusers at this unexpected turn of matters grew enraged; Tybert was almost mad; Igrim grew inwardly furious, and Bruin growled horribly to himself; the Wolf could not contain his rage: may it please your majesty, says he, your decision in this affair is an encouragement to villainy; the Fox is a liar, a rogue, a traitor; to this the Bear added, may it please your majesty, likewise what friend Wolf asserts is true and just; one more deceitful than that Reynard never existed, and you are wrong---Hey dey! cried the king, in a great passion, interrupting him, cease, traitors, cease! *May it please your Majesty*; and *May it please your Majesty*, rebels, ye displease your majesty! shall subjects dictate to their monarch? shall ye object

to my decrees?---what at your old work again?---here guards, seize those criminals!---handcuff and fetter them, then convey them as traitors to the darkest and deepest dungeon in our dominions: these orders being instantly obeyed, Reynard capered for joy, and the rest of his accusers dreading a similar fate, precipitately hastened from the royal presence; then Reynard, being still intent on further mischief, thus bespake their majesties: it is, says he, a cruel circumstance that I must walk from here to Rome entirely barefooted; to alleviate this I humbly implore that I may by royal authority, be indulged with the skin of the Wolf's two fore-feet, and with the skin of the hind-feet of his spouse; these will make me a pair of sandals or slippers, which will preserve my own poor feet from losing too much leather in travelling over the innumerable rough and craggy places, and likewise that I may be allowed as much of Bruin's hide, as may be found sufficient to make me a scrip or wallet, to carry such trifles as I may be necessitated to take through the wilderness and chaces; these requests being granted, or-

ders were immediately issued that the surgeon of the household should perform these separate operations on Isgrim and the Bear; to this they submitted with watery eyes, but dared not breathe the least invectives against the Fox, on pain of instant death. Reynard having provided himself with a pilgrim's staff, and fixed on his new fashioned slippers, petitioned the king, that previous to his departure mass might be said over him; the Lion then ordered Bellin, one of his high priests, to perform the ceremony; this Bellin seemed very backward to undertake, informing the monarch, that as the Fox was under censure of the pope, should he absolve him the curse would revert to himself, unless he would first grant his royal indemnification: the king cried, with an angry look, priest, hesitate about executing my orders one moment longer at your peril! the Ram intimidated at this performed the functions of his office, and then sanctified the staff and Scrip of Reynard, who received them from his hands seemingly with great piety, and tho' he laughed within himself at the formal ce-

remony, yet it highly pleased him to be dignified and complimented so much.----The monarch, to shew as much complaisance to Reynard as possible, told several of his favourites that he intended to accompany the Fox a mile or two on his way, and should be proud of their attendance; to this all readily agreed, and out they set: they had not gone far before Reynard informed the king how dangerous he conceived it might be both to his life and his realm, should in his absence, and that of his sincerest patriots, Isgrim and Bruin be rescued from prison by those of their own wicked party, and requested they would not, for fear of danger to themselves, through friendship for him, proceed with him any further; the Hare, said he, and my reverend friend the Ram, have promised to walk on with me for about an hour longer, and their worthy company will give me sufficient satisfaction: the Lion thought Reynard's speech contained much reason and loyalty, and all the train, except Keyward and Bellin, took an affectionate leave of him, and glad he was at their so doing, though he appeared

to be terribly affected at parting with them : the Fox and his two companions now jogged on by themselves, he diverted them all the way, and made them laugh so much at his merry stories, that they hardly knew what road they were in : Reynard intended to play his pranks on them both ; so led them through many labyrinths and turnings, to his castle of Malepardus ; which was the only Rome all the while to which he designed as a pilgrim to travel ; the Hare and Ram were surpris'd to find themselves insensibly, as it were, brought there, when Reynard thus address'd them ; worthy friends, a good husband always takes leave of his wife and family previous to his going on any long journey : I therefore request, reverend Bellin, you will take a turn or two in this court yard, while my dear relation Keyward just steps in to witness some few private papers of mine ; we will not be absent above five minutes ; the Fox and Hare then entered the castle : Reynard's wife was rejoic'd to see him returned safe, and so were the young ones : he then began telling her what particulars had

happened to him, how he had cajoled the Lion, and had his revenge on both Isgrim and Bruin; his spouse and the young foxes immediately burst into laughter at his tale; but, says he, as to this Keyward, I have yet had no recompence from the villain, however we'll instantly taste what relish his flesh has; the poor Hare at this grew terribly frightened roared aloud for help, but Reynard quietly dispatched him, and with the assistance of his family soon devoured him all, except his head, which he preserved to perpetrate another stratagem on Bellin.

M O R A L.

That Monarchs are often deceiv'd's very plain,
 Especially those whose delight is in gain;
 'Tis lucre we mean that's amassing of wealth;
 It matters not whether 'tis fair or by stealth:
It matters not!---Yes, for all things shou'd be
 fair,
 But monarchs can act more than other folks
 dare.



CHAP IX.

The continued Cunningness of the Fox.---The Present he sent to the Lion explained.--The Catastrophe which the Present brought on Bellin the Bearer.---The Bear and the Wolf released from the Dungeon.---The King displeased, then pleased again, as Kings will often be: end up and down, and turn about, &c. &c. &c.

AFTER Reynard and his family had fatiated their appetites on the belly of the Hare, little regarding the Ram, who was

this time waiting at the gates, Reynard thus bespoke his wife; my dear, the king after all the finesse I have passed on him, which has to this time been so successful, will certainly bring me, in earnest, to punishment for this prank we have played on Keyward, I therefore deem it an act of prudence for us and our family instantly to decamp, and safely convey to another place before the alarm can be spread, all our furniture and books of the deepest and most secret consequence. To this his spouse prudently and lovingly answered, my dear if you are pursued by enemies you may possibly escape, but should you move our effects, they may be taken from us when once chanced to be found, and there are rogues enough ready to seek after them; I am sure you have too much regard for your wife and children to leave them destitute of a hiding hole. The Fox at this reasoning was in a sort of a dilemma, or as people are apt to say, between Hawk and Buzzard, for *wit* may be, and we suppose it really is, a good instructor for

self-preservation, yet found sense best determines the efficacy of its consequence: at length it was unanimously resolved not to quit their castle of Malepardus: during the feasting of Reynard and his family, and this altercation, the Ram was pacing about the yard with the utmost impatience, for the return of Keyward; at length with a loud voice he holla'd out for him; the Fox on this opened the gate, and begged the Ram not to be displeas'd, for that Keyward not having seen his aunt for some time, they had got into some private chat of great importance together; did you not, continued Reynard, hear a crying out just now; indeed, answered Bellin, I did, and am very uneasy about it, I took it to be Keyward's voice, what mischief has been committed on him? Mischief, said the Fox, lord help you, could you imagine the least hurt could happen to him under my roof? no, no; and yet, sir Bellin, you guessed very right, for it really was the Hare's voice; my poor spouse fainted away when I related to her the journey I am

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about to take, and Keyward having a great affection for her, roared out, help here, she'll die! she'll die! but the hartshorn bottle effectually recovered her; the confusion we were all in made me forget that so worthy a person as yourself was dancing attendance here; but I hope you will pardon my inattention; I have likewise been writing according to my promise, to the king several expresses of great consequence to the whole nation: these I request your noble self to convey into the Lion's own hand; you may inform the king that you indited them for me, and depend, upon my honour, I shall never let the Cat out of the bag; they are written with such spirit, in such elegant language, and contain such weighty political matters, that you'll gain immortal honour by them; and our sovereign will certainly reward your great abilities according to their merit; all know you have a head, mine, alas, is only an apology for one. The Ram made a slight excuse for his not being of consequence enough to be intitled to so great an honour, and many other hums and haws

which ambitious persons commonly make when they refuse to take on them, through a feigned modesty, the office their hearts most wish to be employed in: but the Fox, through pure friendship to him would take no denial, and having secretly conveyed the head of the Hare into the wallet, which had been made for his pilgrimage out of the Bear's hide; he tied it round the Ram's neck for a mail, and praying him not to walk too fast for fear the Hare, who he said would set out in about five minutes after, should not overtake him, took leave of him wishing him a safe and pleasant return to court. Bellin being arrived at the palace of Sanden, found the Lion and his chief courtiers discoursing, in full assembly on Reynard's pilgrimage, and passing high commendations on him: the king was surprized to see the Ram return alone, and enquired where Keyward was; may it please your majesty, says he, I left him a little way behind, he's walking leisurely on; I pushed forward, because I know the vast importance the packet which I bring

in this mail is of to the realm ; the letters are all my own writing, for though the Fox may be cunning, yet he has not my understanding and learning ; the diction of them will, I flatter myself, charm the whole court ; the secretary of state was then ordered to open the packet : but what a general consternation ran through the assembly, when instead of pulling any papers out of the mail he pulled out the bloody head of the Hare ! Bellin was struck at once with surprize and shame, fool that I was, thought he, to suffer such a gross imposition. The Lion was terribly enraged, traitor, villain, he called the Fox, why was I so weak to believe his plausible stories ? To this a great favourite of the sovereign's, named Firapel, or with more propriety Libard, answered ; why does your majesty appear thus cast down ? 'tis true you have been too believing ; but it has proceeded from your good-nature ; good nature is an amiable quality ; and when 'tis abused no wonder the hearts of the great so justly resent the injury ; is not your majesty master of your own dominions, master of your subjects, you cer-

tainly are so; why not then exert your authority? Am I not deceived, returned the Lion? the punishment I have inflicted on Isgrim and Bruin was executed at his request; my queen too thought it right; I have been terribly deceived, and my private enemies will censure me for it; what, said Firapel, censure a monarch, a monarch of such spacious dominions, of such might and prowess? let your soldiers bring him hither; storm his castle; destroy him at once, and let other traitors by such an example learn the consequence of imposing on, and beguiling so great and merciful a sovereign: the Lion adhered to this advice, and instantly ordered Firapel to get by royal authority the Wolf and Bear released from their confinement; this done they arrived at court, and their sovereign after expressing some sorrow for the misfortunes they had laboured under, invested them with full authority to satiate their revenge on the Fox, and all his offspring or kindred, and on the Ram, and all his offspring or kindred, for time to come evermore: Isgrim and Bruin, by

virtue of the commission, immediately went in search of Bellin, whom they instantly destroyed, and likewise ewes and lambs to an amazing number; and all their generation persevere by hereditary right in the same practice to this present time. The Lion commanded a sumptuous entertainment to be prepared, in order to drown all animosities in festivity: in the height of their merriment and recreation, who should arrive to exhibit fresh matters of trespasses against the Fox, but a young Rabbet called Lapriel? he informed the king that he saw Reynard, dressed like an Hermit, standing at the gate of his castle, counting over his beads; that he took it as a good omen, and thought to have walked by him unmolested, but all on a sudden the Fox knocked him down, with an intention of devouring him; however, he luckily recovered his senses, though much wounded, and happily escaped death; when the coney had related this, he humbly requested justice might be done him; the king was at once incensed and amazed at this story, but more so when the Rook flew in

with dismal cries and informed him of the horrid murder the Fox had committed on his spouse : most gracious sovereign, said he, this morning my wife and I went out to seek food for our children, and observing Reynard lying stretched out on the plain, we both conjectured him to be dead ; accordingly I advised my dame to fly down and see whether he was so or not, and that if it was only a sick fit she should fetch him a cordial, but alas, her humanity cost her her life, she put her head close to his mouth, as his tongue was lolling out, to find whether he fetched his breath, he instantly gave a start, and snapped my poor Sharpbeak's head off, I should have shared the same fate had I not flew into an adjacent tree, where I had the mortification of seeing him feast on her dear carcase ; I first sung a dirge on drooping wings ; then picked up her remains, which are only these few feathers, in hopes to stimulate your majesty at once to pity and resentment.

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M O R A L.

The tortures the Wolf and the Bear under-
went

By the Lion's command, to give Reynard
content,

Convince us that crafty folks oft' make a king,
For peculiar revenge, to transact a rash thing;
By their being releas'd, and in favour at court,
Is shewn 'mongst the great ones how fortune
makes sport;

What changes take place 'mongst the *In* and
the *Out*,

Which no plain honest man care's a farthing
about.

The villainous trick Reynard play'd on the
Hare,

Shou'd instruct thoughtless persons to take
better care,

And not with the artful familiar appear,
Too late it makes innocence oft' shed a tear,
The fate of the Rook and the Rabbet explain,
That nothing roots vice out that's bred in
the grain.



CHAP. X.

The excessive Anger of the Lion towards Reynard;---The Intelligence Grimbard gave to Reynard about it;---His second Absolution;---The Friendship of the she Ape to him, and other Matters.

THE spirit of the Lion was so moved that he uttered the most dreadful imprecations against the Fox, determined in his own mind that all his various artifices should never more delude his own judgment and un-

derstanding; a villain, says he, I'll have all my soldiers sent after him; I am sorry to say, that in some measure, my queen persuaded me to this ill-seasoned lenity; Is this his pilgrimage? was it for this that the Wolf and his wife provided him his shoes, and the Bear with part of his hide for a portmanteau? inform me, my nobles, and ye that are learned in the law, what method may be most eligible to bring to exemplary punishment so infamous a traitor, that my reign may not be branded in the annals of posterity? Isgrim and Bruin both prudently held silence, though they were ready to burst with joy, expecting others would applaud this resolution of the Lion, and excite him to perseverance; it happened that most present reflecting on the subversions that had so lately happened, though undoubtedly true patriots, and knowing what was *once* might be *again*, remained in a sort of suspence; none caring either to speak for the Fox, or against him; the monarch took immediate notice of this: what, said he, all silent on this important head? I hope ye're not all in

combination against me? to this the queen, who was a little displeas'd at what the king had hinted concerning her conduct, in this affair, intimated that it would be the greatest sign of prudence, especially in a sovereign, to send for the Fox, and hear both sides of the question; if I, continued she, was mistaken in my opinion of Reynard, 'tis no more than you yourself was; he cannot fly out of your dominions, let him face your presence, and be punished by the laws of the realm; to this Firapel answer'd, gracious queen, your speech is the speech of wisdom, he should certainly be tried in a court of judicature, to condemn him unheard would be absolute tyranny: the Wolf imagining that if Reynard should be allowed to plead in his own defence, he would certainly by some subterfuge, get exculpated, was almost frantic with inward passion at these two speeches; the king, says he, must have his pleasure obeyed, but for my part I shall always look upon the Fox as a most deceitful expert traitor; what a rhodomontade tale did he impose on our monarch about Creckneypit, and treasure,

and the deuce knows what? it was a cunning scheme of his, no doubt, and he got his pardon and freedom by it; so was again enabled to persevere in his old path of wickedness, and continue to rob, plunder, and massacre all good subjects, so unhappy to come near him; what a shocking stroke of impudence and treason did he exhibit, by sending to his majesty, who had rescued him from the jaws of death, the head of the murdered Hare; a divine penitent, a religious pilgrim indeed! this speech had great weight on the Lion, he disregarded all that the queen and Libard had insinuated, and issued out orders for all his subjects to appear properly armed and accoutred within one week from that day, that himself, at the head of them, might force Reynard in triumph from his castle, to submit to that deserved punishment he had so lately respited him from; all ye, says he, who deem my decree too severe on the Fox, when we arrive in the field march with your backs towards the habitation of this traitor; 'tis highly requisite a monarch should know both

his friends and his foes; this being pronounced, the nobles and courtiers took leave, and set out for their different places of residence.

The Brock having listened attentively to the Lion's determined resolve, set off incognito, to inform the Fox of the revenge intended to be executed against him, that he might, under the rose, take care of himself; as soon as Reynard saw him at the gate of Malepardus, he guessed how matters were, and after complaisantly accosting him in, cried, well my dear relation, I suppose you bring disagreeable tidings from court to me, when will the time arrive that religious persons, like myself, may pursue their devotions without dreading the machinations of the wicked and ungodly? never, I fear! says Grimbarde, indeed you have great reason to be uneasy; I came on purpose to advise you for your future safety; orders are distributed by royal command, for all the troops in the Nation to rise in arms against you, the Lion is to head them, in person, and in a few days your castle will be besieged, the

Bear and Wolf having been discharged from the dungeon, are exalted to the highest degree; they have already murdered Bellin by royal authority, and they are invested with the same power to destroy you and all your family or kindred: the accusations made against you by the Rook and the young Rabbit are looked upon in the most heinous light, and nothing but utter destruction is at your heels.

The obligations I am under to you, replied Reynard, shall never be effaced from my memory; if foes can bless one I am happy enough; but let me once get to the ear of the Lion, and I'll make 'em all tremble; prithe, continued he, let us dine on those pigeons which my wife is picking, I took them out of the nest about an hour ago; and then we'll go to court together; but let me request you not to let fall before Ermelin an hint of the danger you apprehend me to be in; this being all settled they sat down to dinner, and Mrs. Ermelin was extremely obliging to the Brock. The ceremony being over, the Fox called his children to him, and

after explaining to Grimbard their good qualities, and how tractable they were in all cunning tricks, he gave them advice to keep themselves during his absence out of all manner of danger. He then addressed himself to his spouse, and bade her keep up a good heart, informing her that he should be absent for a short time, laying an injunction on her not to let one soul enter his castle till his return; the Brock and the Fox then set out on their journey to Sanden, and dame Ermelin was left in great tribulation at the parting of her dear Reynard: they had not gone above a mile before the Fox requested the Brock to be absolved; informing him that since his last absolution he had committed various offences and sins; Grimbard told him he had no objection to granting him what he desired, provided he would make a full and ample confession; to this Reynard made not the least hesitation, and thus began: The accusations I laid against Isgrim and Bruin, respecting the rebellion, were entirely false; it grieves me much when I think how they were confined in

prison on my account; besides the barbarity I caused to be executed on them, and on the Wolf's wife: The tale I told the Lion about the vast riches was all mere invention and fictitious: the poor Hare I cruelly murdered, and was the cause of the Ram's death; the young Rabbet I intended to slay, but his alertness evaded my design, and as to the Rook's spouse, I clandestinely eat her all up except her feathers; I played a terrible prank on Isgrim, which I forgot to mention when I received absolution last. We were travelling through a wood, and the Wolf made bitter complaints about the emptiness of his maw.

It happened that a pretty colt was grazing by the side of a wood, through which we were passing, and at a small distance was her mother, the mare; the Wolf being, as I said almost famished, had a longing desire to receive a little sustenance from the filly, which could not be effected without the loss of its life: he dreaded much the force and power of the mare, and requested me to apply to her to know what the utmost purchase of

the colt would be; through pure good-nature I waited on the mare for that purpose; she informed me, that money was very scarce, and that ready money was what she much wanted; but that she had made a vow never to be concerned in any bonds or notes; the exact Value, says she, I cannot ascertain, that is, I cannot remember; but I know it is marked upon the shoe of one of my hind feet; I then began to suspect she had some mischief in her head, and informed her that I did not know so much as my alphabet, and that I wanted the filly, not for my own service, but for a friend, who was waiting at a small distance off; to this the mare replied, let him come here, I'll warrant we shall not disagree; immediately instigated by pure good-nature, I hastened to Isgrim, and informed him, that he might have the colt if he could read the price, which was indented on one of her mother's shoes; the Wolf at this seemed displeas'd, not liking my expression of, *if he could read*; was I not, said he, educated at the university? and am I not well versed in

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all the different languages in the known world? why before I arrived to fifteen years of age I could *conster* this Latin phrase ;

Infirtaris in Oaknonefi.

This was extracted from an ancient classical *Code*, written by that learned author, *Hookemsnivy*, who flourished several thousands years ago, and all the fellows of our college had it given them for a task ; but my translation beat all the others dead hollow ; for which, according to custom, I gained immortal honour from my superiours, and the Envy of all beneath me.---Well, continued he, I'll go to the mare and read the characters, let them be written in *Arabick*, *Greek*, or any tongue whatsoever ; so away he went ; I resolved to wait at a distance, to observe the event ; Isgrim was well received by the mare, and she lifted up one of her hind legs, that he might read the Inscription ; he looked very attentively for a few minutes, but all on a sudden the mare gave him a desperate kick over the scull, which terribly disfigured his head and face, and stunned him for several minutes ; but when he in some degree

recovered, he sat up a most grievous cry; the mare and the colt then galloped off, neighing and rejoicing at the prank that had been played on him; I then kindly went to him, and not seeing so much as a bone of the foal, seemed a little displeas'd, and asked him whether he had been so hoggish to gobble it all up? gobble it up, replied he, pray lend me your paw to help me up; that fiend of a mare has almost killed me; I was poring over the nails in her shoe, imagining every nail to be a Saxon letter, which since I find to my great sorrow, to be quite the reverse; what a shocking disaster, cried I, is this! how terribly it grieves me! why, when I heard you howl, I really thought the nails you speak about were crotchets and quavers, and that you had learned the art of singing at sight, you certainly are a great scholar, but according to the ancient adage, *the wisest are always most foolish*. My speaking to him thus ironically, fretted him much, but the miserable situation he was in, rendered him incapable of ob-

taining satisfaction: most reverend friend continued Reynard, this is the whole truth, and now pray absolve me. This Grimbard did, and said, for your ingenuous confession I pronounce you sinless and free; but though I grant you so much indulgence, I much fear the Lion will not be so kind to you; as to that, returned the Fox, if my own mental Abilities will not insure me from the inveteracy of my foes, I must submit with passive obedience, and die contented; knowing how much, when I am out of this world, the loss of my great capacity, especially in the political way, will be lamented.---The Fox and the Brock jogged merrily on till they arrived at the palace of Sanden.

M O R A L.

This further the cunning of Reynard evinces;
 Too often religion imposes on princes;
 The Fox was convinc'd on't, and knew the
 right thing

Was fresh absolution for coaxing the king;
 The Mare when she talk'd on the price of her
 Foal,

Which ere she'd have sold, wou'd have sold
 her own soul,

Explains how the sensible act with the cun-
 ning,

A method between downright earnest and
 funning:

From the race we call human, to that of the
 brute,

Affection so firm in the bosom takes root,

That no living creature can part with its
own;

Can gold for the loss of our offspring at-
tone?

I really think not:---and yet some are such
elves,

They'll first sell their children and then sell
themselves.

The Lord of this world, who's so good
and so wise,

Instructs us each other to cherish and prize:
But man, his most noble work, spurns this
decree,

And beasts act more rational oft' times than
he.

The Wolf, whom she kick'd, is an emblem
of those,

Who let in their business a knave interpose.



CHAP XI.

The Ape presents her Compliments to our Readers, and being engaged in family Business at Home, could not possibly attend on them in the last Chapter, but hopes her Company will be agreeable in the following one.---The Arrival of the Fox at Court.---The Resentment of the Lion.---The varnishing Excuses of Reynard, &c.

THE instant the Fox entered in the royal presence, he fell on his knees; dread

sovereign, said he, again I appear before your most gracious self, and this brilliant court, in a most unfavourable light, it is the fate of the honest and worthy often to be embarrassed with accusation on accusation, while those guilty of the most enormous trespasses, by carrying a fair countenance, and being continually fawning, (for who can read the heart) not only pass off unpunished, but are raised to posts of the highest dignity; many such, with sorrow I speak, (oh, that this world should be so wicked) I see about me: many furlongs distant should I at this time have been on my pilgrimage, had not the implacable malice of my enemies superseded my pious intention; my innocence is all my comfort, and ever happy be my king and queen.--The Lion looked on him with a countenance armed with resentment and indignation; thou abettor of treason, said he, thy subtilty shall no longer protect thee, this day shall be thy last. Loyal attention you paid to my decrees, did you not? Lapriel you did not assassinate? Sharpbeak you did not murder? Rebel, thy doom is now irre-

vocable. Most gracious monarch, answered Reynard, I am well apprized of my accusers, and I now see them all blush, it is a proof they are not hardened in wickedness; I intreat your majesty to hear in my own words, my deplorable case: I will be as brief as possible. The king at this gave a nod, and the Fox thus began:

Much beloved monarch!

The first that brought me an account of the misrepresentations and fresh offences laid to my charge, was the Brock; I took it kindly of him; but was inwardly grieved in the spirit to think that my pious intentions, by my coming here, through loyalty and duty, would be retarded; heaven knows what the consequence may be; but not to pay due allegiance to my king, I am certain would be considered as an offence, the most atrocious there.

The first complainant against me is Lapriel: I always imagined we were bound in the strictest bonds of friendship; but too late I find myself deceived. It chanced on a day, which I generally set aside for fasting and

prayer, that this young Rabbet, while I was at my morning devotion, knocked with a sort of authority at my castle gate; it did not please me to be disturbed, I must acknowledge; but however when I considered the great kindness which I thought he bore me, I could do no less than let him in; my spouse being always ready to oblige any of my friends, with much sincerity invited him to stay dinner; accordingly when all was ready on the table, myself and whole family, except my son Rossell, whom I ordered to wait at table, sat down with him, to partake of the scanty pittance, which on those days of mortification of the flesh, I always allotted; after we had eat as much as all but him deemed a sufficiency on such a day, instituted for penitence, Rossell began to take the apparatus from the table; but when he came to the plate of Lapriel, he, to the astonishment of us all, being of a voracious and hungry disposition, suddenly transgressed the punctilios of hospitality, and gave him so violent a stroke over his head, that I wonder he has survived to this day: Reynardine his brother

could not patiently see this, he flew at the coney like lightning, and would have destroyed him but for my taking him off, and remonstrating to him how ungenerous it was to wreak Revenge on him in our own house. He escaped with his Life entirely through my humanity, and has sweetly rewarded me for it, by a false and infamous accusation to your majesty, laying ungratefully the cause of what he suffered to me, who was his sole deliverer.

The complaint of the Rook is equally false and injurious; a tender heart feels the miseries of others, and as mine does, makes them its own; I heard a melancholy moaning and screaming at my gate; this moved my compassion, and out I came to know the cause; Rooky, my friend, says I, what can be the meaning of this great lamentation? oh, friend Reynard, said he, my poor wife Sharpbeak is dead; this made me shudder, having a great regard for her; I enquired the cause of her death, which he informed me was occasioned by feasting too heartily on the body of an Hare, that died a natural death, and becoming putrified, the worms made them-

selfes very free with it; now Sharpbeak being of a voracious disposition, gobbled up the remaining part of the Hare, worms, and all; many of the worms being alive, eat their way through her carcase, and in less than an hour she died. This, may it please your majesty, is the truth; then judge in your royal mind, of what crime I am culpable.

The Lion much doubted this account of the Fox; but said he, if this be a real fact, there are other allegations against you: you sent me the head of the Hare to make a mock of me; you sent it by the Ram contemptuously; he has suffered death for it; and were it for nought else, even for that you shall certainly forfeit your life. The Fox grew at this somewhat low spirited, but summoning his fortitude to his assistance, and being encouraged by the Ape, who was a facetious creature, and much the friend of Reynard, he replied, with a countenance full of dejection and sorrow, dropping a tear; gracious sir, you surprize me, what is my worthy friend Keyward numbered amongst the dead? my heart is ready to burst with grief: how

dear was he to me! hard it is indeed that I should stand accused of even being accessory, much more the sole cause of the death of one, for whom I had so sincere an affection.

The Lion, looking grimly at him, cried, traitor, I still doubt thee;---thy vices shall fall heavy on thy head. Rukenaw perceiving the downcast disposition of Reynard, and being much attached to him, requested to be heard, and Firapel seconded her request; the king on this gave her permission to display her talents of oratory: gracious sovereign, said she, the Fox is nearly related to me, but I speak now, not out of any family attachment, but through a real regard to merit; the race of the Reynards has from time immemorial, been the truest patriots and pillars of this kingdom; what noble schemes, what projects for the publick welfare, ever came from either Isgrim or Bruin? nay from any of their race? their sentiments relative to the policy of the nation, were always received contemptuously, while those of our family were certain of gaining patriotic applause; to this the Lion replied,

to do as one would be done unto is a noble principle : had Reynard committed such outrage on you as he has on others, you would have been the first and most rigid in persevering against him; I tell you Rukenaw he has imposed on you by a shew of piety, and preserved your good opinion of him by dissimulation and fallacy; royal sir, answered the Ape, if that were the case, I should and ought to be set down a novice or a fool; but I have more wisdom, and I hope more judgment than to let my understanding be so greatly deceived; I know that his heart is good, and have often observed his sensible abilities and his kind benevolence to others; how wisely did he determine, particularly one cause in the court of Justice, when neither Isgrim, Bruin, nor many others, who make pretence to superiour wisdom, could understand one jot about it; your majesty will be pleased to remember that a labouring man returning to his cottage from his daily task of industry, found a serpent caught in a snare, and in great tribulation; the piteous crying out he made, moved the heart of the poor

countryman: he went up to him and promised to release him on condition that he would not sting or bite him for the kind deed afterwards; to this the serpent gladly acquiesced, vowing in the most solemn manner, not only to insure his safety, but to requite him with the utmost gratitude: the clown confiding in these assurances released him, and they marched away in friendly conversation together: they had not gone far before the serpent felt the symptoms of hunger come strongly upon him, and all on a sudden gave a furious spring at his deliverer, with intent to destroy him; the man very luckily slipp'd aside, and deluded his aim: ungrateful wretch, said he, is this the reward of my humanity? have you so soon forgot your sacred oath? no, replied the serpent, but when I made it I was in captivity, and wished for nothing but to be extricated; I was not in the least hungry then, but am terribly so now, and hunger, you know, must be satisfied. The good-natured husbandman perceiving in what a critical situation his life stood, requested that the decision of the af-

fair might be referred to the next passenger they might chance to meet. The Raven and his son were hovering over head, and having observed the dispute flew down, excited by curiosity: these, according to the agreement between the man and the serpent, were to determine the matter, whether murder might be committed legally or not: Tifellin and his son, after hearing the state of the case from both parties, without the least hesitation gave verdict that the clown might certainly be killed with great legality; consider, cried the husbandman, for you know in your own bosoms how partial this judgment is, that you all feast on the like food, therefore I never doubted but that you Tifellin, and you Slinope, his son, would instantly chime in with the sentiments of the serpent; but I will not submit to your judgment: the noble Lion shall determine my case, your power and ferocity may possibly put an end to my being, but it is seldom found, where three are concerned in any bad fact, but that one of the accomplices turns evidence; for wicked people are seldom long true to one

another, and should that be the case in the present circumstance, reflect with horror on the punishment which our just and good sovereign will assuredly inflict, if not on all, at least on two of you: this reasoning had some weight on them, though they all longed for a repast on his carcase, and who should come that way in the interim of their argument, but Isgrim and Bruin; the matter in question was then referred to them; but they coincided with the opinion of the Raven, his son, and the Serpent, and unanimously decreed, that as all were hungry, the man should be immediately devoured; every one equally delighting in the effusion of blood; the poor clown, being thus circumstanced, cried, I insist on having my case represented to the king, if he shall deem me proper food to satiate your appetites then, by his permission fall on, but should you make so free without his approbation, his vengeance and justice will pursue ye all: your majesty, continued she, will be pleased to recollect that this extraordinary affair was debated before

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you in council, and though your wisdom and judgment are universally allowed to be unparalleled, yet you very condescendingly submitted the business to the Fox, requesting him to be umpire in the controversy.

My relation, Reynard, desired to see the trap in which the serpent was entangled, and that he might be put in it in the same position in which the countryman found him; all this being complied with, how wise was his determination. Honest man, said he, addressing himself to the clown, you see your ungrateful enemy in his former miserable situation, if you will put confidence in his oath again, that he will not demolish you, he shall be respited from that fate, which otherwise will inevitably crush him: confidence in him! answered the husbandman, no, I have already trusted him too much; a perjurer once will be always a perjurer, and were he again at liberty, certain I am death would be my portion; then, said the Fox, let the serpent rest contented in the gin, if he can, and die, through hunger, the deserved death of ingratitude; you remember, royal sir, how the whole

court then rang with the applause of Reynard. Oh, they cried, with one voice, what an upright judge! what a wise decision! he, modest creature, only said, well I am happy that my monarch and his council approve of my conduct, but why should I be elated at it, I did no more than my duty. The Pole-cat, the Otter, Squirrell, Weasel, and many others, seconded the harangue of dame Rukenaw: the queen having heard their several speeches with great attention, cried, indeed Firapel and myself were, and are still of opinion, that the Fox should be tried by his peers, and not be executed without having a fair hearing; but the king was so enraged at the loss of the Hare, that he would not listen to reason. I must confess, said the Lion, I was much exasperated, but having reflected on it since, am now tolerably cool, and do decree that Reynard be tried by the laws of the realm, and if they bring him in guiltless, I shall be contented, and even rejoice at the verdict. The Fox then blessed their majesties, informing them that he made not the least doubt of proving his

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innocence, since they had been so gracious to indulge him with a fair trial. He thanked his aunt, the Ape, and laughed at what had passed, as the saying is, heartily in his sleeve.

M O R A L.

The prince who makes virtue his aim and
delight,

Deems vice as a monster too horrid for sight ;
The Lion thought so, and doom'd Reynard
to die,

For the murder of Keyward, so cruel and sly ;
But prudent reflection made anger subside,---
None really are guilty until they've been try'd.

The Fox to the Ape had so oft' given
praise,

She'd have sworn to the truth of what lies he
cou'd raise ;

By the tale of the man and the serpent,
we find

That where rank ingratitude lurks in the mind,
Heap favour on favour as long as you will,
If your person they don't they'll your character
kill.



C H A P. XII.

The artful Pleading of the Fox in his own behalf.---His Grief for the Loss of many valuable Jewels, which he protests he sent by the Ram as Presents to their Majesties.---His being acquitted of the Crimes alledged against him, and his becoming a great favourite at Court.

PERMISSION being given for Reynard to plead his own cause, he thus be-

gan: royal sir, you intimated that my friend the Hare was dead, since which information I have been under such a dejection of spirits, that I have scarcely power of voice or mind to justify myself against the misdemeanors imputed to me; but if poor Keyward be indeed defunct, let the Ram be called; I hope he gave your majesties the jewels I sent by him as presents to you both? Jewels! cried at once the king and queen; he brought no jewels, unless you deem the head of the Hare one: Bellin has paid the forfeit of his Life, occasioned I am afraid through your audacity. Wretch that I am, cried Reynard, to put confidence in such a villain; they were of such inestimable value, that the whole Indies would not prove rich enough for their purchase. I am ready to turn frantic: Alas, they are irrecoverably lost. Don't be so cast down, cried dame Rukenaw, give us a description of them, and I'll warrant, by the king's authority, his proper officers will soon discover in whose possession they are concealed: dear aunt, said Reynard, you see in what great tribulation I am, and you talk thus to coax me,

goodnaturedly thinking to alleviate my sorrow; but you must needs imagine my poor wife will break her heart when the news of this irreparable loss reaches her; and as to describing them, you know I have not yet obtained leave to enter into that arduous task; the queen at this gave a nod of acquiescence to the king, who in consequence cried, Reynard proceed, you are permitted: Royal pair! said he, the first present to our sovereign was a gold ring, curiously enamelled with Hebrew characters engraved on it; I could not cleverly comprehend their meaning, but applied to a conjurer, who informed me that they meant the names which Seth conveyed from Paradise, when he went thither for some oil of mercy, from the guardian angel, to heal his father Adam of a grievous malady he laboured under: it was a ring of such miraculous virtues, that the wearer of it would be insured from the terrible consequences of conspiracy and combinations of all kinds; from all epidemical disorders, bodily aches and pains, and in combat render

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him victorious: so much for my first present to my sovereign: the next was an offering to my queen which consisted of two inimitable curiosities: one was a comb made out of the blade-bone of a beast called by the learned Panthera, or physician of the forests; a creature found to reside no where except near Paradise; the virtues centered in this bone were innumerable, it would attract together, by its fragrancy and aromatic scent, all the beasts of the deserts; the elements, even fire or water, had no power over it; it expelled poison with a touch, and cured all disorders by the patients only smelling at it; oh, how charmingly was it polished! its great beauty was equal to its internal amazing qualities: the story of the judgment of Paris, was admirably well wrought on it: the other was a glass most wonderfully constructed; the lookers at it might see objects at a great distance off; I am certain I, in my own person, should be extremely glad to have it in my possession; for I should like to see several, that I know to be my bitter enemies, at a great distance off indeed; and yet if the other end were

looked through, they might be brought very near; that end to be sure I should not be very desirous of peeping through; for every body knows enemies will advance near enough to people, without any power of art, except their own, to attract them; to monarchs and such royal personages, an instrument like this must be of the greatest utility: many emblematical stories were carved in a most elegant manner about the frame, all highly finished by the most expert artists.

At one corner was finely painted the Hart in combat with an Horse, with a clown on his back, who finding him so fleet of hoof, detained him afterwards to amble for *his* pleasure.

At the second corner was the story of the Spaniel and Ass; the ass having often taken notice of the fawning of the Dog on his master, resolved to be a sycophant too, and seeing the farmer one day crossing the field, he ran frisking his tail towards him, laid his fore-paws on his shoulders, and flinging him down, fell to licking his face, and braying most horribly; the noise he made, and the

farmer's crying out for help, brought the plowmen about him, who terribly belaboured him for wantonly mistaking his station in life.

At the third corner was the tale of my father and the Cat: Tybert and he were journeying through a forest, when suddenly the horns and hounds assailed their ears; my father took to earth, but puss ran up an high tree, crying every now and then jeeringly, have a care Reynard, this is your last shift; your hide must now, I believe, go to the furrier's.

The fourth corner was decorated with the ingratitude of Isgrim, who requested the Crane to get a bone out, which stuck in his throat, with her long bill; this the Crane performed, though instead of gratifying her, he jeered her, and told her she might be well contented since he did not deprive her of her head. Numberless other ornaments it had, which to describe would tire the attention of your majesties.

It has been insinuated to your majesty, that myself nor family never were serviceable to

this realm : what charge can be so injurious ! my fire was a physician, bred at Montpellier ; your royal father was once on a time thought to be on his death bed ; my father declared his disorder not to be of so malignant a nature as was imagined : he examined his water, felt his pulse, and then intreated him not to despair of a cure, assuring him that his eating the liver of a Wolf, seven years of age, would happily effect it : your royal fire, turning his eyes to the Wolf, cried, Isgrim it makes me uneasy that this affair has fallen on you ; but you have sense enough to know that the king is the protector of this realm, and in his health its whole happiness is centered ; to a true patriot, like you, nothing in this world can possibly afford such joy, as to be selected to forfeit life for the preservation at once of his sovereign and native country ; the Wolf, with a very grave countenance, replied, your majesty reasons right ; it is undoubtedly a duty incumbent on every loyal subject to sacrifice himself for the emolument of an whole kingdom ; chearfully would I submit to part with my liver, heart, and all, were

I of proper age; but unhappily for me, I shall not be five years old till the first of next April: to this my father replied, Isgrim you have delivered yourself with great propriety and patriotism: but don't be cast down, I have since considered that a liver turned of four years may be as efficacious as one much older; then addressing himself to the king, informed him he could easily tell whether it would answer the purpose or not, at first sight. Your royal sire then ordered Isgrim's liver to be taken out; the Wolf died instantaneously: what then? he died a martyr in a glorious cause. The liver then was fricasee'd, your royal sire eat heartily of it, and in a few days was perfectly recovered. A medal of immense value, and a rich chain, were presented to my father for his skill, and successful physical knowledge. I could mention a thousand particulars in which I have been useful to your majesties, which I am afraid are not now remembered, though there was a time, when in matters of importance my judgment was always abided by: I am sure my heart is ready to break. The Lion was somewhat moved at this relation,

and told my father not be so melancholy; behave, says he, according to your Rank, I find upon mature consideration, that your crimes are not fully proved: there are none here to confront you in the defence you have made: I therefore pronounce you innocent. The Fox then humbled himself on his knees, promised to make strict search by the art of magic for the treasure he had spoken of, and departed, having given great satisfaction to their majesties, and being extremely well satisfied in his own mind. Isgrim was terribly enraged at this success of Reynard; may it please your majesty, said he, I perceive you still believe this traitorous wretch: remember how you served my spouse; very friendly, cried Reynard, I think; to be sure I taught her to catch fish by her tail, but she staid so long in the water that the ice caught it close, and she was obliged to lose a few inches of it; she should have considered it was frosty weather: another crime your spouse charges me with, equally weak and silly; I was in a deep well, I confess, and could not climb up; I desired her to get into the bucket; this she

did, and her weight being heavier than mine, as she descended I ascended ; what crime was this ? 'twas only self-preservation according to the law of nature : all this cried the Wolf is chicanery and evasion ; how did you serve me on the Ape's account ? I, said the Fox, did not much serve you, but the Ape served you as you deserved ; you burst like a thief into the apartments belonging to her and her children, when she was lying in, for which I advised her to correct you, that you might know better for the future, which she did pretty handsomely. Isgrim at this was out of all patience ; villain, said he, there's my glove, I challenge you to combat with me to-morrow morning. Reynard accepted the challenge, and pawned his honour to meet him at the time appointed ; the Otter, previous to the bloody trial, brought him a fine fowl, telling him to eat it all up, which he did to hearten him, and Rukenaw gave him advice, as the Wolf was in strength so much his superior, how to behave in the contest ; the king and his nobles went the next morning to see the combatants enter the list ; Isgrim

and Reynard on a signal given, went immediately to fighting with great fury; the Wolf had to all appearance victory on his side, but Reynard recollecting the instructions of his aunt, suddenly made water on his brush, and rubbing it in the gravel, flung it in the face of Isgrim so successfully, that he almost blinded him; the Lion seeing his despicable situation, demanded a truce between the combatants; to this the Fox was glad to comply, though he feigned a sort of unwillingness: the monarch then said, still thinking on the wealth, you shall be exalted higher: let the wounds of the Wolf be dressed,---I will believe no more tales against the Fox, and woe betide any one who for the future shall accuse him: his enemies finding him so much in favour, were obliged, for their own interest, to be submissive to him; he provided for all his relations, and his two sons had the honour of knighthood conferred on them: he gave a grand entertainment at his castle of Meleopardus, lived many years after in great splendor, and by dint of his cunning died a natural death.

C O N C L U S I O N.

The Wolf fought revenge, but soon found
himself wrong;

The *cunning*, tho' weak, can o'erpower the
strong;

The beasts lov'd the Fox, as a placeman in
pow'r,

And human brutes act so to this very hour;

Yet should the scale turn, you'll perceive the
dead set

Was only to coax you for what they cou'd get.

And now gentle readers, with some little fun,
We take our farewell, for our history's done;
We've mingled instruction we hope with de-
light,

But you are to judge, if we're wrong or we're
right.

The author of this most respectfully begs
All to take care of FOXES that walk on two legs.

F I N I S,

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