



FABLES
OF
LA FONTAINE

Translated from the French

BY

ELIZUR WRIGHT, Jr.

TWO VOLUMES IN ONE.

FOURTH EDITION.

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COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

NOTICE.

THE Fables of La Fontaine were the delight of Fenelon, and have been in high favor with the best and wisest teachers of youth ever since. In translating them, it was my endeavor to follow the original as closely as I could, and produce readable English. The testimonies of my success in this respect are extremely gratifying. But, having reason to suppose, from criticisms both friendly and unfriendly, that the work might be rendered more acceptable to parents and teachers in other respects, I have, with some care, revised it for that purpose, changing many expressions, altering some fables, and entirely omitting a few. To save the expense of recasting the plates of the whole work, I have taken the liberty to fill up the places of those omitted, with others from my own pen. They will be found marked with a star in

the Index. After all, I am not so foolish as to expect that these time-honored fables will entirely escape censure. In this age, distinguished for almost every thing more than sincerity, there are some people who would seem too delicate and refined to read their Bibles. They are themselves so far removed from reality, that the very word *fable* seems to disturb them, as the word *hemp* does a person whose relative has been hanged. But the unsophisticated lovers of *nature*, who have not had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the French language, I have no doubt will thank me for interpreting to them these honest and truthful fictions of the frank old JEAN, and will beg me to proceed no farther in the work of expurgation.

THE TRANSLATOR

DORCHESTER, *March 3, 1843.*