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**LA FONTAINE  
A PRESENT  
FOR THE YOUNG.**

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# LA FONTAINE.

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A PRESENT FOR THE YOUNG.

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FROM THE FRENCH.

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BOSTON:  
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MDCCCXXXIX.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

ÆRONAUTS, before risking their necks, often deem it prudent to send up a pigmy balloon to try the quality of the gas and the course of the wind. On the same principle, the fables which compose this little volume have been selected from a manuscript translation of the entire work of M. DE LA FONTAINE. Although that work is by no means confined in its application to any one of "the seven ages of man," but addresses itself "*à tous tant que nous sommes*," the present selection is more particularly commended to the YOUNG. The translator hopes ultimately to instruct and please both them and their parents. It is no more than truth, however, to say, that he has found the bulk of his motive in the supposition, that if he could in any measure supply so great a *desideratum* as the naturalization into English literature of a work which, at the age of two hundred and seventy years, has been more multiplied than any other in French, an *American* public would help him feed his children.

THE TRANSLATOR.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 23, 1839.

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