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PHÆDRUS' FABLES

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THE FABLES

OF

PHÆDRUS

Literally Translated, with Notes,  
BY HENRY THOMAS RILEY, B. A.

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HANDY BOOK COMPANY  
READING, PENNSYLVANIA

# THE FABLES OF PHÆDRUS.

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## BOOK I.

### THE PROLOGUE.

THE matter which Æsop, the inventor of *Fables*, has provided, I have polished in Iambic verse. The advantages of *this* little work are twofold—that it excites laughter, and by counsel guides the life of *man*. But if any one shall think fit to cavil, because not only wild beasts, but even trees speak, let him remember that we are disporting in fables.

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### FABLE I.

#### THE WOLF AND THE LAMB.

Driven by thirst, a Wolf and a Lamb had come to the same stream; the Wolf stood above, and the Lamb at a distance below. Then, the spoiler, prompted by a ravenous maw, alleged a pretext for a quarrel. "Why," said he, "have you made the water muddy for me *while I am drinking?*" The Fleecce-bearer, trembling, *answered*: "Prithee, Wolf, how can I do what you complain of? The water is flowing downwards from you to where I am drinking." The other, disconcerted by the force of truth, *exclaimed*: "Six months ago, you slandered me." "Indeed," answered

## FABLE VIII.

## THE EMBLEM OF OPPORTUNITY.

A Bald Man, balancing on a razor's edge, fleet of foot, his forehead covered with hair,<sup>1</sup> his body naked—if you have caught him, hold him fast; when he has once escaped, not Jupiter himself can overtake him: he is the emblem how shortlived is Opportunity.

The ancients devised such a portraiture of Time, to signify that slothful delay should not hinder the execution of our purposes.

## FABLE IX.

## THE BULL AND THE CALF.

When a Bull was struggling with his horns in a narrow passage, and could hardly effect an entrance to the manger, a Calf began to point out in what way he might turn himself: "Hush," said *the Bull*, "I knew that before you were born."

Let him who would instruct a wiser man, consider *this* as said to himself.

## FABLE X.

## THE HUNTSMAN AND THE DOG.

A Dog, who had always given satisfaction to his master by his boldness against swift and savage beasts, began to grow feeble under increasing years. On one occasion, being

<sup>1</sup> *His forehead covered with hair*)—Ver. 2. From this figure of Time or Opportunity, Time came to be represented in the middle ages with a tuft of hair on his forehead; whence our common expression "To take time by the forelock," signifying to make the best of an opportunity."