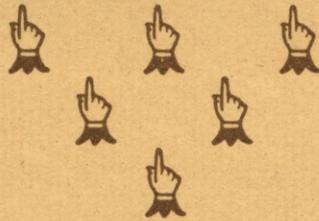




FABLES
of ÆSOP &c.



AESOP'S FABLES

SAMUEL CROXALL'S TRANSLATION
WITH A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE
BY VICTOR SCHOLDERER AND
NUMEROUS FACSIMILES
OF FLORENTINE
WOODCUTS



THE LIMITED EDITIONS CLUB

1933

ALFRED A. BARRETT

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF LONDON
FROM THE FOUNDATION
TO THE PRESENT
BY
ALFRED A. BARRETT

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The present book owes its undertaking to a quarto volume containing an Italian version, illustrated, of a number of the fables popularly known as *Æsop's*. It is re-bound in eighteenth-century vellum, was formerly part of the collection of Mr. Charles Fairfax Murray, and is now in the library of Mr. Wilfred Merton. It appears to be the only surviving representative of the edition to which it belongs, and is shown by its typography to have been printed at Florence somewhere about the years 1518-20, possibly by Gianstefano di Carlo; neither the printer nor the date can be ascertained with certainty, as a leaf which doubtless bore a colophon, and possibly others as well, are missing from the end of the book.

The forty-eight woodcuts, all but two of which are here reproduced in facsimile, are characteristic specimens of early Florentine book-illustration and go back at least as far as the year 1496, when most of them appear in an edition printed by Francesco Bonaccorsi for Piero Pacini and described by Paul Kristeller in his *Early Florentine Woodcuts* (no. 137a). Two later editions,

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themselves to pursue these little loose sketches of morality; such may do well enough without them. They are written for the benefit of the young and inexperienced; if they do but relish the contents of this book, so as to think it worth reading over two or three times, it will have attained its end; and should it meet with such a reception, the several authors originally concerned in these fables, and the present compiler of the whole, may be allowed not altogether to have misapplied their time, in preparing such a collation for their entertainment.



