

**FABLES AND
ESSAY, VOL. I**

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Fables and essay, vol. I by John Bryan

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JOHN BRYAN

**FABLES AND
ESSAY, VOL. I**

FABLES AND ESSAYS

BY

JOHN BRYAN

OF OHIO.



VOL. I.

[*COMPLETE IN ITSELF*]

FIFTH THOUSAND.

NEW YORK
THE ARTS AND LETTRES CO.

1895

AUTHOR'S NOTE.

This book is dedicated to two ideas which are equally inclusive : *Liberty, Justice.*

This book is copyrighted to prevent others from selling it at a gainful price.

The words "Vol. I." were inserted in the title-page because, while this book was going to press, the author produced a number of other Fables, which will contribute to a future volume, whether the public like this volume or not.

The author would be pleased to receive any sincere approval or disapproval, in writing, from the readers of this book, addressed in care of the publishers.



PREFACE.



I suppose most authors publish their books for about the same reason a hen lays eggs—for relief to themselves. Under the circumstances the most amiable thing I can do is to humbly beg the public's pardon for perpetrating another book upon it. As it is not intended to be sold for profit I can not even plead as an excuse that it is expected to fill a long felt want. Besides I should be much obliged to the public for reading it at all, let alone pay a profit on its manufacture.

What if Jesus had copyrighted and charged a fee for his Sermon on the Mount?

One who gathers and writes news is worthy of hire: but what shall we say of the author who button-holes the impatient public upon the street and harangues it, and then, hat in hand, begs the strolling buffoon's fee?

Mr., Mrs., or Miss Reader, I respect you; and I assure you if I could see you coming out of a book-

store with my book under your arm I should almost feel that you were my friend. At least I should feel that after you read it you would know something of me, but I nothing of you, which would be friendship half seas over, for I do hope you will like such part of me as you find herein.

I expect you will pardon me, for you know as well as I there are emergencies in nature which a person can't help: there are times when a thing can no longer be concealed, and publication is a relief.

I've had these manuscripts about me for years and tried to suppress them untill those who knew me gave me a character of mystery and whispered among themselves that they expected something unusual from me: I've even "sat on the safety-valve" until I knew the explosion could no longer be delayed.

I even got my hair cut quite short and ordered fashionable clothes: but all to no purpose. So here I am, again begging your pardon, and thanking you in advance for granting it. If you read my book at all I shall feel that I have not exploded in vain.

THE AUTHOR.

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