

SELECT FABLES.

I. THE FOX AND THE GRAPES.



A Fox, parched with thirst, perceived some grapes hanging from a lofty vine. As they looked ripe and tempting, Reynard was very desirous to refresh himself with their de-li-cious juice; but after trying again and again to reach them, and leaping till he was tired, he found it im-prac-ti-ca-ble to jump so high, and in consequence gave up the attempt. Pshaw! said he, eyeing them as he retired, with affected in-dif-fer-ence, I might easily have ac-com-plish-ed this business if I had been so disposed; but I cannot help thinking that the grapes are sour, and therefore not worth the trouble of plucking.

The Vain, contending for the prize
'Gainst Merit, see their labour lost;
But still self-love will say — "Despise
"What others gain at so much cost!
"I cannot reach reward, 'tis true,
"Then let me sneer at those who do."