

Aesop's Fables Edited by Charles Stikeny.

THE OLD MAN AND HIS SONS

AN old man had many Sons, who were often quarreling. Their father tried to make them good friends, but he could not.

At last he called all his Sons to him, and showed them a bundle of sticks tied tightly together.

"Now," said the Father, "see if you can break this bundle sticks."

Then each of the Sons took the bundle, and tried with all his might to break it, but not one of them could. When they had all tried, and given it up, the Father said, "Untie the bundle, and each of you take a stick, and see if you can break that." This they could do very easily. Then said the Father:

"You saw when the sticks were bound together how strong they were; but as soon as they were untied, you broke them easily. Now, if you would stop quarreling, and stand by each other, you would be like the bundle of sticks, ---no one could do you any harm; but if you do not keep together, you will be as weak as one of the little sticks all by itself."