

KRILOF AND HIS FABLES

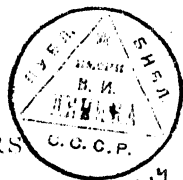
KRILOF AND HIS FABLES

BY W. R. S. RALSTON, M.A.

Of the British Museum



8 21/8
7



STRAHAN AND CO. PUBLISHERS

56 LUDGATE HILL, LONDON

1869

op 31-9317



Тѣхъ русскихъ, которымъ попадется этотъ переводъ
уважаемаго баснописца, переводчикъ покорнѣйше про-
ситъ принять въ соображеніе, что иллюстрированіе книги
несколько отъ него не зависѣло.

PREFACE.



THE poems of which a literal prose translation is now offered to the English reader enjoy a popularity in their native land which they can scarcely expect to obtain in a foreign country. At home they live on the lips and in the memories of old and young, of rich and poor, and have become a sort of national heirloom ; abroad they run the risk of being regarded as little more than quaint curiosities. Much of their special excellence depends upon the choice felicity of their language and the artistic structure of their verse ; it is, therefore, scarcely possible for any one to form a fair idea of their original merits who makes their acquaintance only after they have been interpreted into alien prose. But, even in a foreign dress, I think that they cannot fail to interest and to please such readers as will make fair allowance for the disadvantages under which they labour. Their brilliance has naturally been dimmed, and their music has