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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE TWELVE LABOURS OF HERCULES,
SON OF JUPITER & ALCMENA ***

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THE
TWELVE LABOURS
OF
HERCULES,
SON OF
JUPITER & ALCMENA.

LONDON:

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1808.

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LONDON.

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April 2, 1808.*



Hercules in his Cradle Strangles two Serpents.

The Twelve
LABOURS OF HERCULES,
Son of
JUPITER and ALCMENA.

1

The Nemæan Lion.



By Juno's hate urged on, Alcmena's Son,
At sixteen years his noble toils begun.
Nemæa's dreadful Lion first he sought,
The savage slew & to Eurystheus brought,
From his huge sides his shaggy spoils he
tore,
Around him threw, & e'er in triumph wore.

2

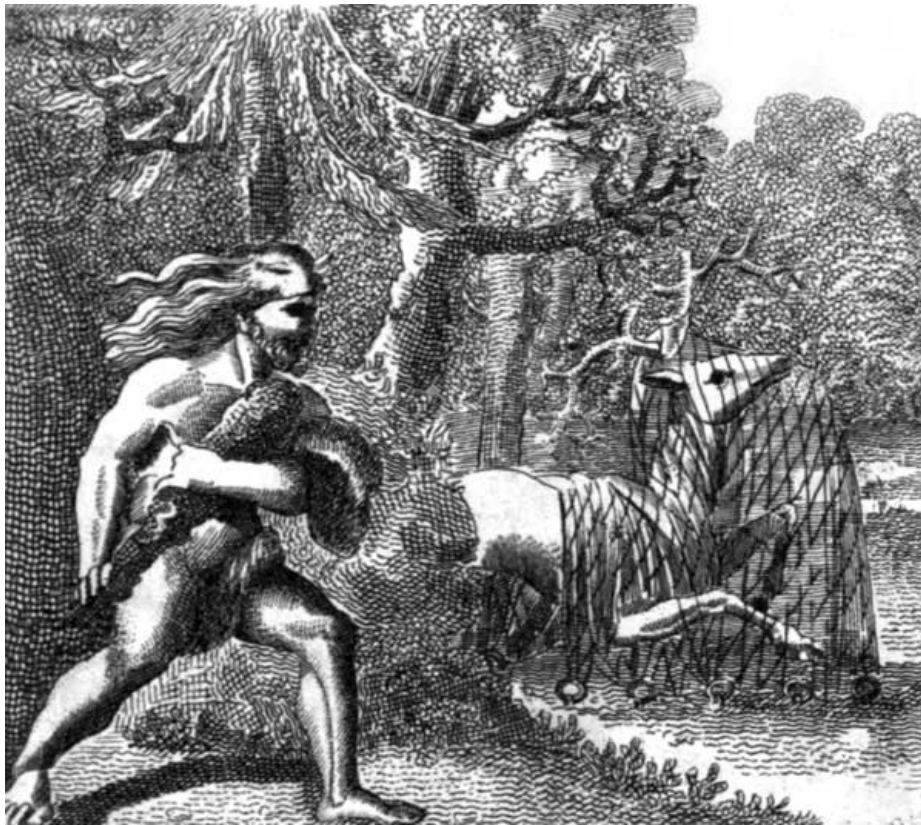
The Lernæan Hydra.



On Lerna's pest th' undaunted Hero
rushes,
With massy club her hundred heads he
crushes,
In vain. One crush'd, two hissing heads
arise,
Till good Iolas to each wound applies
The burning brand. Dipt in the Hydra's
gall,
His arrows slightest wound is death to all.

3

The Mænalæan Stag.



A Stag with horns of gold and feet of
brass,
On Mænalus bounds o'er th'unbending
grass,
To Dian sacred, this he's doom'd to bring,
Unhurt into the presence of the King,
Forbid to wound, how take a Stag so fleet?
A twelvemonth's end scarce saw the task
complete.

4

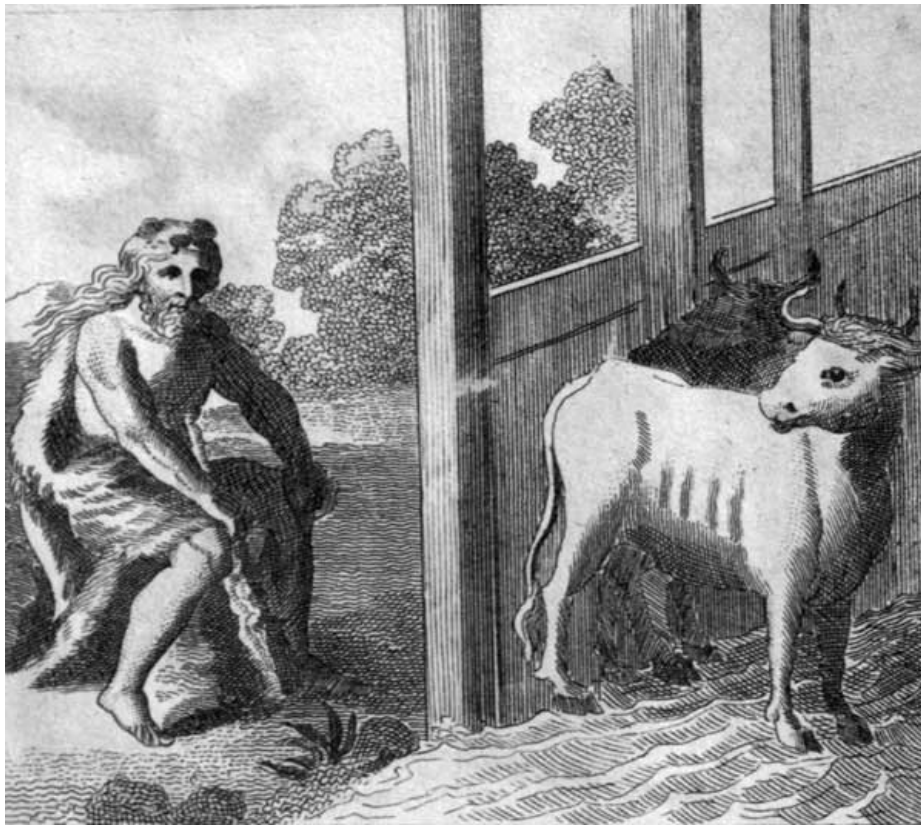
The Erymanthian Boar.



To Erymanthus next his course is bent,
To seize the Boar by incensed Dian sent,
The fell destroyer bound he o'er him flings,
And unto scared Eurystheus quickly
brings,
The trembling Tyrant shrinks aghast with
dread,
And in his brazen Vessel hides his coward
head.

5

The Stables of Augeas.



To cleanse the Augean Stables now he's
sped,
Where thirty years three thousand Oxen
fed;
The task for man too great. A river's
course
He turn'd, & thro' the stables urged its
force,
The tide resistless rolls, and in one day
The gather'd filth of years is swept away.

6

The Stymphalides.



The Lake Stymphalus by his arm was freed,
From those dire birds on human flesh who feed,
By Pallas' aid the dreadful race subdued,
No more its banks with whitening bones
are strew'd.
Honour'd by all mankind he now returns,
But still Eurystheus' envious hatred burns.

7

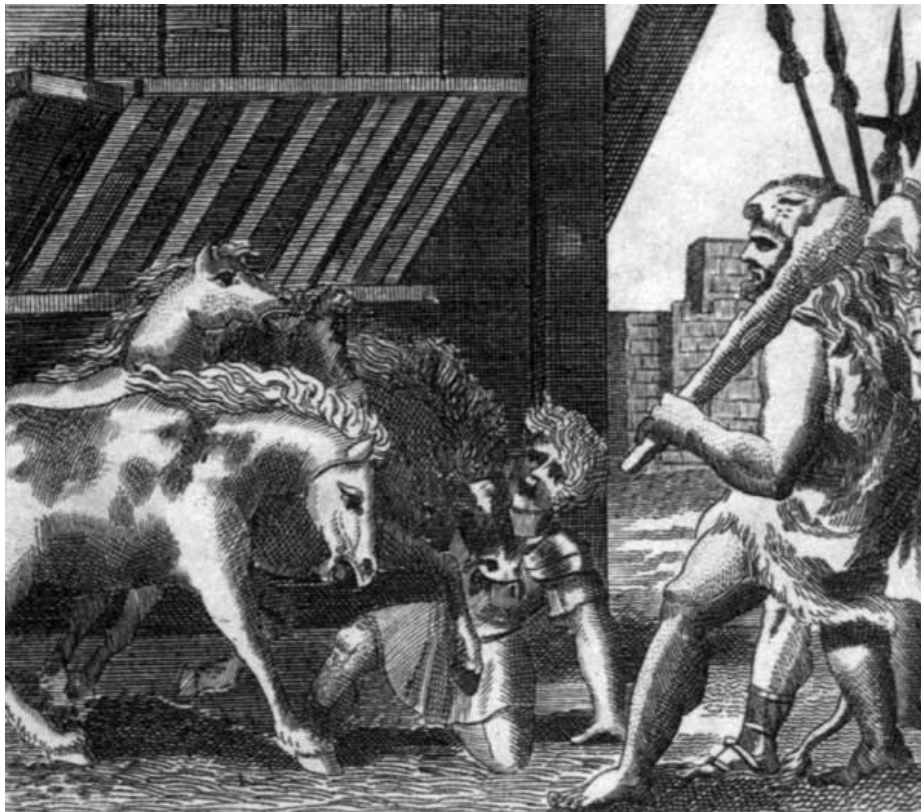
The Cretan Bull.



A furious Bull with nostrils breathing fire,
To punish Minos sent by Neptune's ire,
Roams wild in vengeance thro' his wide
domains,
And death & terror spreads o'er Crete's
fair plains;
But soon the bellowing beast alive he
caught,
And vainly struggling to Eurystheus
brought.

8

Diomedes and his Horses.



Fell Diomed, whose horses fat with gore,
His subjects bodies in their mangers tore,
He next o'erthrew. And as old authors say,
The Tyrant gave to his own steeds a prey,
On Mount Olympus rent by savage beasts,
No more the horses make on man their
horrid feasts.

9

The Amazon Hippolite.



By Fate constrain'd Eurystheus to obey,
The matchless Hero now must bend his
way,
To gain the golden girdle which adorns
The Queen of Amazons. Who proudly
scorns
To yield, and in her warriors doth confide
—
But vanquish'd she becomes great
Theseus' bride.

10

Geryon.



A Giant King in Gades once did keep,
(Unlike their gentle race) carnivorous
sheep,
The triple monster slain, amidst his rocks
He left to birds a prey, and seiz'd his
flocks,
Which by Eurystheus' order brought away
He unto Argos safely did convey.

11

Cerberus.



In fetters Hercules fierce Cerberus tied,
And took him trembling from grim Pluto's
side,
From realms of darkness drag'd away to
light,
The yelling monster sicken'd at the sight,
And from his jaws the foam which fell to
earth,
Unto the poisonous Aconite gave birth.

12

The Hesperides.



To crown his deeds, so wondrous & so
great,
Upon his shoulders vast Olympus' weight
He bore, while Atlas did the apples bring,
Which bridal Juno gave to Heaven's dread
King.
And now the dragon guarded apples won,
The Godlike Hero, saw his Labours done.

*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE TWELVE LABOURS OF HERCULES, SON
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