

This project<sup>1</sup> can be completed in a number of ways to give practice in glueing sticking, cutting and tracing. We traced and reversed the body, using the tracing to cut out the shape in purple foil (turquoise would have been better but we only had Cadbury's...). We stuck mixed sequins along the dotted lines, then stuck the foil cut-out over the top and added a sequin eye. Other materials could be used for the tail such as small foil gummed shapes or torn pieces. The finished work of art can be used for a discussion of pride although obviously it should be understood that peacocks are not really proud! Here is the relevant Aesop's fable with the moral from *Christian Fables or the Fables of Aesop and Other Writers Christianized and Adapted with Christian Morals for the Use of Young People* by Rev. Samuel Lysons 1850

Either the children who were destined to receive the "small class reward books" of which *Christian Fables or the Fables of Aesop and Other Writers Christianized* was one, had excellent vocabularies or the Rev. Samuel Lysons was out of touch with what children could easily understand. However, I give it as it stands here (complete with "salutary effects of occasional mortification" which is a wonderful phrase for children's literature!) for your interest. It serves by comparison to show how excellently the *Peep of Day* series was written for children with its simple vocabulary and plain, short sentences.

The classical myth of Argus and how his hundred eyes were set in the peacock tail can be found on Disk 3 of the Mothers' Companion under *Legends of Greece and Rome* "The Story of Io."

## 26. THE PEACOCK AND THE CRANE.

A PEACOCK and a crane met together by chance. The peacock, spreading his tail, displayed his gaudy plumes, and looked with contempt upon the poor crane. The crane, resolving to mortify his insolence, took the opportunity of saying, "that peacocks were very fine birds indeed, if fine feathers could make fine birds, but that he thought it a much nobler thing to be able to soar above the clouds, than to strut about on the earth to be gazed at by children!"

### MORAL.

WE have had an instance before in the fable (22) of the river fish and the sea fish, of the salutary effects of occasional mortification and humiliation; and here the lesson is repeated with a further moral, namely, that this sort of ostentatious pride, which is assumed, is "to be seen of men," its object is earthly, and human applause is that which is sought. Our Lord says "verily they have their reward, that is, earthly praise being their object, they obtain all that they desire, and having obtained it they must expect no more; like this vain peacock, such persons strut about upon earth, making a great show and making great professions; but the sober and humble Christian lives not for this world, he lives above it; he soars in thought and hope above the clouds "he sets his affections on things above, and not on things on earth, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God;" he mortifies therefore his members which are upon earth, he daily ascends in prayer and meditation to that place where his "treasure is, that there his heart may be also."

This is how I would adapt it as I read it:

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<sup>1</sup> Peacock design from *100 Exciting Things to Make and Do* by Violet M. Williams (Dean and Son, 1972) included here by kind permission of the publisher.

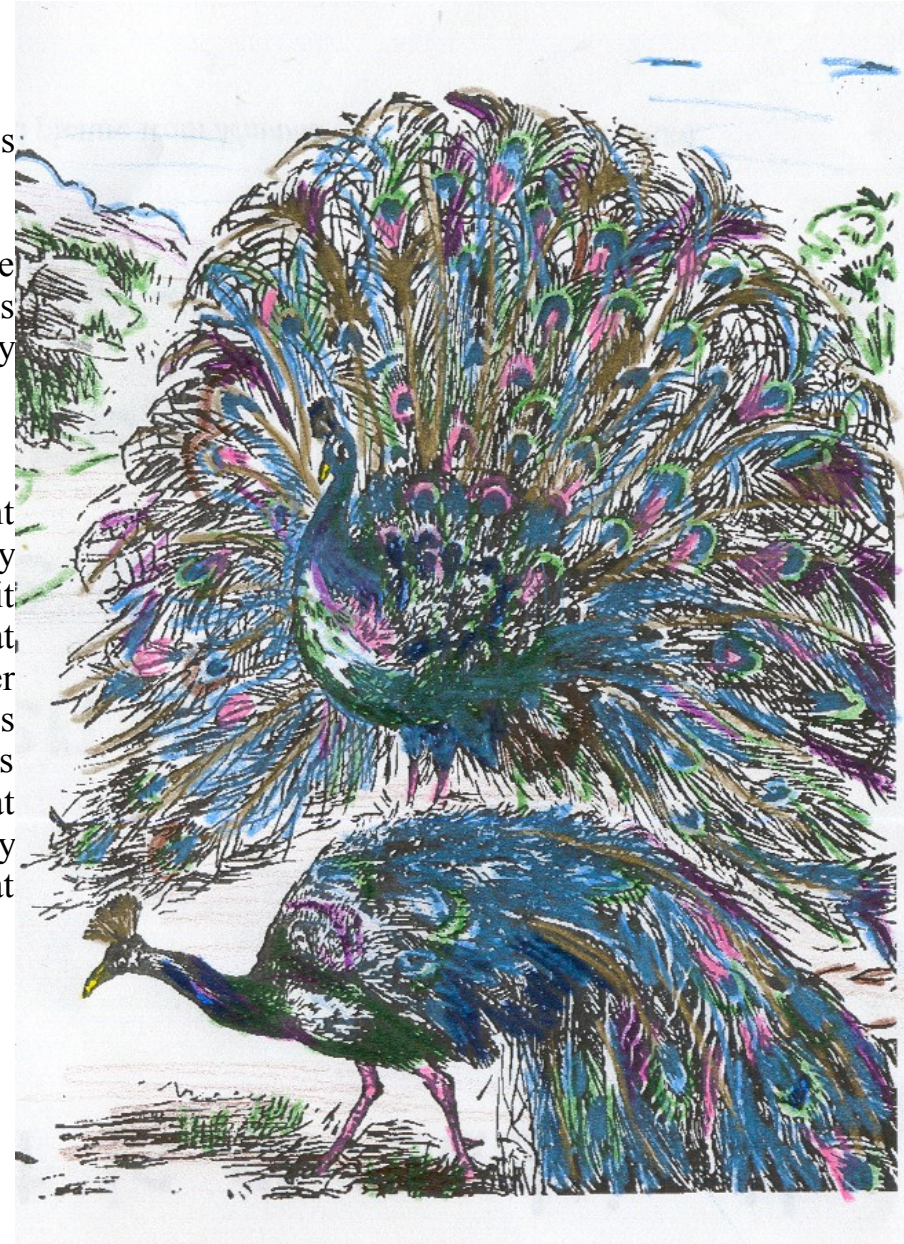
## THE PEACOCK AND THE CRANE.

A PEACOCK and a crane once met each other. The peacock, spreading his tail, opened up his showy plumes, and sneered at the plain-looking crane.

The crane, decide to take him down a peg or two, so he said, “peacocks are very fine birds indeed, if fine feathers can make fine birds, but I think it is better to be able to fly than to strut about on the earth to be gazed at by children!” and with that he flew away.

### MORAL.

Showing off and pride, “to be seen of men,” is earthly, and proud people want human applause. Our Lord says “verily they have their reward,” that is, earthly praise being what they want, they get all that they desire, and having got it they must expect no more. These people strut about upon earth, making a great show and with much talk. They are like the peacock in the fable. The sober and humble Christian should be like the crane. He should live not for this world, but above it; he soars in thought and hope above the clouds “he sets his affections on things above, and not on things on earth, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God;” he *mortifies*, or puts to death, his *members*, or bodily parts which are upon earth, he daily ascends in prayer and meditation to that place where his “treasure is, that there his heart may be also.”



THERE are few more brill-i-ant sights than a pea-cock's tail, when it is spread in the bright sun-light.

This bird is rare-ly eat-en now, but in old-en days the flesh of the pea-cock was e-steam-ed a daint-y, and the dish in which it was served was al-ways de-cor-at-ed with its beau-ti-ful tail.



The *two peacocks* illustration can be coloured in using mixed blue, green pink and gold pencils. If they are of a good quality they will actually cover over the printed black to create the effect shown in the coloured version above. Younger children may prefer the picture below.

