

Of all his subjects, quickly rose
 A storm of wrath from Reynard's foes.
 While each from out his breast unlocks
 Some long-pent grief against the Fox.

This, to my knowledge, exhausts the English versions of *Reynard*. There is evidence, however, that two other English men of letters, H. C. Robinson and J. P. Collier, contemplated translations.⁹⁶ Robinson, with his usual modesty and generosity, abandoned his when he found that more competent hands were engaged on the task, and furthered Naylor's undertaking to the utmost of his power. He had previously urged Charles Lamb to attempt a translation, presumably of Goethe's version.

A very pleasant call on Charles and Mary Lamb. Read his version of the story of Prince Dorus, the long-nosed king. Gossiped about writing. Urged him to try his hand at a metrical *Umarbeitung* (working up) of *Reynard the Fox*. He believed, he said, in the excellence of the work, but he was sure such a version as I suggested could not succeed now. The sense of humour, he maintained, is utterly extinct. No satire that is not personal will succeed.⁹⁷

Collier had already proceeded some way with his translation when he heard of Naylor's enterprise. I will let him tell the story of his attempt in his own words, especially as the source is not readily accessible⁹⁸:

A day or two ago, I bought a book which, though not what bibliographers call rare, is uncommon: at least, I have been in search for it for a year or two, viz. *The Crafty Courtier, or, the Fable of Reinard the Fox, &c.* London, 1706. Even before I married, H. C. Robinson often urged me to attempt an English translation, not of the original Saxon work, but of Goethe's *Reinecke Fuchs*, in twelve *gesängen*, as he calls them; and, for that purpose,

⁹⁶ See G. Herzfeld, *Zwei englische Übersetzer Goethescher Gedichte* (*Goethe-Jahrbuch*, 1909, xxx, p. 217), and the note, p. 38, of Naylor's *Introduction*.

⁹⁷ Robinson's *Published Diary*, i, p. 171. Entry for May 15, 1811.

⁹⁸ *An Old Man's Diary for the years 1832 and 1833*, for strictly private circulation. London. Printed by Thos. Richards, 1871, p. 112.