Fable No. 169 — "A Complaint Filed Against the Pike,"

A denunciation was filed against the Pike in court,
That because of her there was no living in the pond;
A whole cartload of evidence was presented,
And the guilty one, as expected,
Was brought to court in a large basin.
The judges gathered not far off;
They grazed on their nearby meadow;
Yet their names remained in the archive:
They were two Donkeys,
Two old nags, and two or three Goats;
For proper oversight of the proceedings
A Fox was assigned to them as Prosecutor.
And rumor ran among the people
That the Pike had been supplying the Fox's fish table;
Nevertheless, there was no partiality in the judges,
And it must be said that the Pike's tricks
Could not be hushed up this time.
So there was nothing for it: it was time to write a decree
To subject the guilty one to a shameful execution
And, as a warning to others, to hang her on a branch.
"Honorable judges!" the Fox here began:
"Hanging is not enough: I would assign her a punishment
Such as has not been seen here in our lifetime:
So that in future rogues would be both frightened and in danger —
So drown her in the river." — "Excellent!"
The judges shouted. They all decided unanimously on that.
And the Pike was thrown — into the river!