1. *The Fox and the Grapes.*

A Fox, that was quite sharp set for want of food after a whole day's hunting, chanced to come into a vineyard, where there hung branches of charming ripe Grapes; he had a mind to refresh his empty stomach with them, but the wine being nailed up to a trellis, he strained all his strength and leaped till he quite tired himself, without being able to reach one of them. At last he said with affected indifference. „Let who will take them, they are but green and sour, nobody can relish them. I might not even have them, though offered to me.“

Application.

Many men endeavour to conceal their vexation at an unsuccesful trial, by beginning to despise the thing, they hoped to attain, in order to give themselves the appearance as if by no means want of talent, but the unworthiness of the object had been the cause for their voluntary giving it up.

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