8. *The sick Hawk and his Mother.*

A young Hawk had been sick a long time in his nest, suffering the most poignant pains. His Mother sat near him on a branch complaining most bitterly. „*Alas! Mother*“ *cried the patient what does your complaining avail, rather send your prayers to the Gods, and to religious places, that they may mitigate my sufferings!* „*Unhappy,*“ *replied the comfortleſs Mother,* „*with what face can I ask any thing of the Gods, in favour of one whose whole life has been a continual scene of rapine, injustice and wickedneſs.*

Application.

Many men with whom repentence and religion is only of value on their death beds resemble the sick Kite. After having indulged all their earlier life in all possible injustices and extortions, they believe to reconcile Heaven with their late repentence. True repentence is founded upon actions, and by endeavouring to extinguish our crimes through good actions we show a true repentence, which alone is capable of restoring the lost esteem of our fellow men, and our own peace of mind.

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