29 *The Wood-Cleaver and the Forest.*

A Wood-Cleaver wanting a handle to his hatchet came one day into the Wood, and petitioned the Forest to give him leave to take a piece of wood fit for his purpose. This request seemed so harmleſs and inconsiderable to the trees, that they unanimously voted he should have a piece; but he no sooner received and fitted it for his purpose, than he began to lay about him unmercifully, and to fell one tree after the other. Then the Trees with sorrow exclaimed. „What fools we have been to consent to our own destruction.

Application.

The greatest grief a person can have in misfortune, is that of being conscious of having by his own fault incurred the misery oppreſsing him. This Fable teaches us further that we must not without distinction grant to every one a right upon us; there being so many impudent who might abuse it, and by that become destructive to us.

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