36. *The Peasant and his Goose.*

A certain Peasant had a Goose, which laid him a golden egg every day. Surprised as he was at this, as strongly he fancied she must at least have a gold mine in her body. The more he reflected on it, the surer he was of this conjecture, and the desire of poſseſsing the gold at once, increased his avarice to such a degree, that he killed the poor Goose, cut up her belly in order to take out the inexhaustible treasure, but how great was his surprise and sorrow, when he found in her belly nothing else but what every other goose uses to have in it. He now found too late that his covetousneſs had deprived him even of what he had already poſseſsed.

Application.

The covetous man by stretching his hands inceſsantly after greater treasures, very often loses even what he already had. There are men who very imprudently put their whole fortune at stake, in order to gain some thousands, and frequently lose all. Contentedneſs therefore, in comparison with this covetousneſs, is a great virtue.

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