37. *The Two Friends and the Bear.*

Two Friends being on a travel were to paſs through a forest, and promised to stand by each other in any danger. They had not gone far, before a Bear came rushing towards them out of a thicket, upon which seeing to escape was impoſsible, one of them full of terror, and being a light nimble fellow got up into a tree; the other falling flat upon his face, and holding his breath, lay still while the Bear came up and smelled at him, turned him a few times about, and having touched his ears with his mouth, supposed him to be a dead carcaſs, which a Bear never devours, he left him, went back again into the wood, without doing him the least harm. His friend who had climbed the tree came now down to his companion and with a pleasant smile, asked what the Bear had whispered to him, so close into his ear — „Why," replies the other, „he charged me to take care for the future, not to put any confidence in such cowardly rascals as you, and has given me the leſson not to choose a friend, that forsakes me in need.

Application.

A true friend proves his friendship to us by aſsisting us in danger and misfortune, and if neceſsary by sacrificing his blood and wealth for us. On that account, friendship is a treasure of which we do not acknowledge its bleſsings sooner and better, than when surrounded by sufferings and calamities. Those who, in the common way of life do call themselves our friends; particularly, when we are prosperous, are frequently nothing else but flatterers, who would soon leave us, if not attracted by our table or money, you must therefore, not take every one for your friend, that calls himself so.

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