38. *The Ass, the Lion and the Cock.*

The Cock and the Ass were once conversing together, when on a sudden they spied a Lion, approaching them. The Cock began immediately to crow and the Lion who is reported to have an antipathy to this music, no sooner heard it, but he betook himself to his heels, and ran away; now the Ass fancying he fled for fear of him, cried with all his might, and in the bravery of his heart pursued and followed him so far, that they were quite out of the hearing of the Cock; which the Lion perceiving, turned about, seized the Ass; and just as he was ready to tear him to pieces said to him. „How foolish have you been to persecute a Lion, when you have not even the courage of a hare."

Application.

It is sometimes the case, that even great and strong spirits have an insupportable aversion, or feel a sort of fear at objects, trifling in themselves, and behave in such a manner, that one is apt to believe them fearful as one should believe it in the Fable of the Lion, who was put to flight by the mere crowing of a Cock. This is, however, nothing else, but a native irritability or weakness of the nervous system, the symptom of which appears only at one and the same object; and by no means a general weakness or dejectedness of spirit; if, now, a wight takes such symptoms in a valiant man for a sign of real fear, and believes on that account to make head against him without danger, he will certainly have a similar fate as that of the inconsiderate Ass.

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