41. *The Ant and the Pigeon.*

The Ant, compelled by thirst, went to drink in a clear, purling rivulet; but unhappily she fell in and the current carried her down the stream. Striving in vain to get out again, she was just on the point of sinking, when a compaſsionate Dove sitting on a tree saw her distreſsed condition, cropped a branch, let it fall into the water, and the Ant saved herself by these means on one of the leaves, and got happily ashore. Not long after she had recovered her spirits, she perceived a fowler lurking in ambuscade, and planting his nets to catch the Dove at unawares. Full of gratitude to her benefactor, when the fowler was going to put his design in execution, she bit him by the heel, and made him give so sudden a start, that the Dove took the alarm, and flew away.

Application.

By gratitude towards our benefactors, we can best confirm to have been worthy of their bounty, and just by preserving the feelings of our acknowledgment in our breast, we at the same time insure the continuation of their love and affection. Thankfulneſs cannot be attained by knowledge and education, it is a divine spark, living already in our soul at our birth and even discovered in animals. The good man cherishes this feeling to thrive and spread blessings, only a villain is able to choke it, but he can never extirpate it entirely.

---

42. La