46. *The Ant and the Cricket.*

The Ant was just busily employed in drying and preserving her winter provision, when a Cricket, quite starved, chanced to come and begged she would relieve her neceſsity with one grain of any food. „Why have not you worked in the summer season, and gathered a stock, not to starve in winter,“ says the Ant. „Alas!“ replied the Cricket, „I was likewise not idle, for I paſsed away the whole summer in playing and singing.“ „If that be the case,“ replied the Ant sarcastically, „you can dance now to the times you have been singing in summer, and starve in winter!“ so gave nothing to the idle beggar.

Application.

In this Fable of Aesop there is one of the most excellent morals contained. Work diligently in your youth, and you will not starve in old age. How many lightminded young men paſs away the most active years of their lives in idleneſs or vain pleasures, or vicious extravagances, instead of enriching themselves by useful knowledge, or providing for their old age by industry and frugality. The highly pernicious and false opinion of so many young men, that their juvenile years are only to be enjoyed, by living continually in a vortex of delight, listening to every passion, has already rendered a great part of them early old men and beggars. The phrase, „a man is but once young,“ should admonish a youth rather to diligence and an orderly manner of living, instead of its being with them the watch-word of sensual and extravagant pleasures. By an abstinent life youth is prolonged, but by debauchery, it is shortened and makes early old men. What manner of enjoyment is the wisest?

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