48. *The Ox and the Heifer.*

A Calf full of play and wantonneſs, jumped about the whole day, on a meadow, went and fed wherever he pleased; saw an Ox at plough, painfully dragging it up and down a field, and could not forbear insulting the honest creature. „What a sorry poor drudge art thou,“ says he, „how shocking is your condition to mine! What a difference is there between our skins? See now mine, as soft and tender as silk, but yours so rough and hard from drudging! What would you give, if you were also free, and could live so agreeable as I do?“ The Ox not at all moved with what he said, went quietly on with his work. Soon after he saw the same Calf taken out of the field and delivered into the hands of a priest, who prepared to sacrifice him; then the Ox whispered to him. „Behold the end of your liberty and comforts, of what use are they now? Your soft and tender skin, and your fine shape are now the cause of your ruin.“

Application.

There are people, who lead a loose and inactive life themselves, but neverthelcſs make merry at others doing their duty, and being useful to themselves and others by their diligence and working. The end, however generally proves, that the lazy and idle at last, struggle with neceſsity and poverty, often falling victims to their debauchery when young, whilst the active and aſsiduous enjoy the fruits of their diligence in ease, their old age indemnifying the hardships of their youth.

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