53. *The Fox and the sick Lion.*

A Lion pretending to be ill, was visited by many animals, who took him to be so, except the Fox, who never made his appearance. The Lion therefore very politely gave him an invitation, saying, it would comfort him very much, to see and speak to his old friend, before his death. The cunning Fox with great courtesy replied: that by the invitation he felt himself highly flattered; he must however resign the honour of calling in person upon his Majesty; for, added he, I well perceived by the footsteps, many animals to have entered the royal palace; but I found no trace of any one having come back.

Application.

It is acting wisely, not to give any credit to the courteousneſs and homage of the falſe, but to examine their behaviour with caution, before we trust to them in any way.