61. *The Horse and the Lion.*

An old half starved Lion seeing a fine well fed Horse, had a great mind to eat a bit of him, but knew not how to contrive it, as the Horse was apt by his swiftneſs to run away, and he not able to overtake him. He made then this cunning diſsimulation of giving out, that he was a physician, who had great experience in curing distempers, so conversing good naturedly with the Horse about many other subjects, he at last innocently said: „Should any thing ail you, I am ready to help you.“ The Horse smelling the matter of the old sharper's design, resolved to be even with him, so humouring the thing, as if he suspected nothing, complained that he had some time ago run a thorn into his foot, which gave him great pains and uneasineſs. „If it be nothing else,“ replied the Lion, „come a little nearer to me, and lift up your sore foot, that I may draw the thorn out;“ but when the Lion was undertaking the pretended operation, the Horse gave him such a kick with his hindlegs in the face as quite stunned him, and left him sprawling on the ground. In this manner the Horse saved his life, by trotting away before the malicious Lion could attain his purpose.

Application.

He, who has a bad design, often incurs his own punishment. He that lays a snare for another, is often catched in it himself. An honest man never diſsembles, in order to ruin his fellow creatures.