69. *The Hares and the Frogs.*

There was once a time, when the Hares were highly dissatisfied, with their Fate, they resolved on a general meeting, to debate upon the best means; how to mend their miserable condition. When they were all assembled one of them began to speak, saying: „What is our life here, but a series of persecutions, frights, fears, and uneasines. A prey to man, dogs, birds of prey, and other wild beasts, we must keep ourselves absconded in thickets for days and nights, and even there we are exposed to the abuses of many bloodthirsty insects. For this reason I think it better done, to prefer death to such a wretched life.“ All the others convinced of the truth of this harangue, consented to the proposal of plunging into and drowning themselves in a neighbouring pool. With this rosolution they bolted forth, but upon coming to the shores of the pool, they perceived that by their noise; a parcel of Frogs sitting there, were frightened at their approach, and leaped into the water with great confusion and dived to the very bottom for fear: which a cunning old Pus observing, called to the rest, and said: „Hold, my friends! Have a care what you do! I see our situation is not the worst as we thought it to be; here are creatures which fear us, as much as we did others. Let us therefore not fancy ourselves the most miserable but bear our fate with patience!“

Application.

Most men, when discontented with their destiny, always compare themselves with such as are superior to them in power and riches, forgetting there are likewise many thousands inferior to them on account of the same preferences. If men would but work themselves up only to look down upon their poorer and more miserable fellow men, many a source of their dissatisfaction would dry up, and then they would neither become discouraged nor indignant at their being ordained to bear a part of the hardships of life, which all living creatures must submit to, in a greater or les degree.