70. *The Lion and the Rat.*

A Lion being caught in a net, called for the aſsistance of a paſsing Rat and said: if you should help me out of my prison, I shall never forget such a service. The Rat began gnawing asunder the knots and fastenings of the toils, and so set the royal brute at liberty. As a reward, the ambitious Rat not knowing what was proper for him to ask of his prince to grant, presumptuously demanded his princely daughter the young Lioneſs in marriage. The Lion, too generous to refuse it, consented: but when the young Lioneſs came to welcome her bridegroom, she like a giddy thing as she was, not minding how she walked, by chance set her paw upon the poor Rat, and crushed her little dear to pieces.

Application.

Every wish raised too far beyond our condition, like every connexion of that kind seldom proves profitable to us. The best is therefore, always to keep in one's bounds.

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