88. *The Pigeons and the Falcons.*

The Pigeons, persecuted by a Vulture in a cruel manner, resolved to get rid of this unhappy situation, so chusing the Falcons for their protectors they would make an alliance with them. The Falcons immediately granted their wishes and promised to defend them against their mutual enemy. But scarce had they given this promise, when they suddenly rushed in upon the careleſs Pigeons and made a greater slaughter among them than the Vulture would have done in two months.

Application.

By chusing a friend and protector, one ought to be careful and trust but to him of whose integrity and fidelity there are proofs. Besides, it is dangerous to take a great and powerful man, for a defender against the incroachment of an inferiour; whose influence if he does not act honestly will totally ruin us.