

will was not worth cultivating. All those to whom I played toady said that I was the nicest fellow that ever lived ; I managed to flatter so dexterously. Dexterously did I say ? Nonsense—flattery requires no dexterity, because the very attempt to flatter shows that the person whom you assail is worth courting, and that is of itself gratifying to a man's vanity. I will tell you a story which I know to be true. A certain Earl, who has large possessions and great influence in one of the northern counties, was one day shooting in company with one of his toad-eaters, and by way of making an experiment on the elasticity of the man's complaisance, his lordship said, "What a beautiful view we have from this hill of the town of A !"—"Beautiful, my Lord—beautiful," said the captain. "On second thoughts, Captain, the town is not visible from this part of the hill."—"Clearly not, my Lord," replied the captain. "But let me see," said his lordship again, pointing to a furze-bush, "surely that must be the church tower."—"No doubt of it, my Lord," responded the captain. His lordship laughed; and the rest of the party laughed—but the captain was right—he got promotion, but not for that, certainly not for that. I heard this story when I was at Collège; and profited by it; it was told to me by a young lord. My inference was, that it was impossible to lay on flattery too thick.

The benefits of toad-eating are numerous ;—there is the physical and substantial benefit of eating and drinking, and that let me tell you, is no mean consideration ; and how much easier and pleasanter it is to smile and lie for a dinner than to work for one. Besides, those dinners which one gets by smiling and lying are much better than such as are to be had for work. And then a toad-eater is generally considered so agreeable a person, —he never contradicts any one except those whom his feeders contradict, and then if he is bid he will contradict himself. A toad-eater (though I say it that should not say it,) is something like a dog : he will fawn on his master and his master's friends, but he will snarl at and snap at his master's enemies ; and the great comfort of the matter is, that he has always powerful back-