

some concealed part of the skin, through which they blow till the animal looks plump and fleshy, and then apply a strong adhesive plaster, to prevent the escape of the air.”

“ Can that be really true, Uncle Thomas? It seems a piece of shocking cruelty.”

“ I should hope such deceptions and cruelties are not much practised, Frank; indeed, it cannot be supposed that these frauds have no exceptions, as, in that case, no one would deal with gipsies; but as they always sell their horses cheap, the temptation of the poor to deal with them is too strong to be resisted. There is another piece of trickery on the part of these gipsies, of which I must tell you, before I proceed to relate to you some stories about these horses. It is this:—In these parts the farmers and other rural inhabitants are extremely superstitious, and are stanch believers in witchcraft and other absurdities, which have long been banished from the minds of more enlightened nations. Of this the cunning gipsies take full