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W. H. Miller



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NATURAL HISTORY
OF
QUADRUPEDS,
FOR
CHILDREN;
COMBINED WITH AN ATTEMPT
TO ENGRAFT ON THE YOUTHFUL MIND,
THE PRINCIPLES OF
TENDERNESS AND COMPASSION
FOR THE
Animal Creation.

BY A LADY.

SECOND EDITION.

London:

PRINTED FOR HARVEY AND DARTON,
GRACECHURCH-STREET.

1824.

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P R E F A C E.

No study is more adapted to the comprehension of young minds, than that of Natural History; yet scarcely one of the numerous books on this interesting subject, is fit to be put into the hands of children. This circumstance has induced the compiler of the following pages, (for this little work does not arrogate a claim to any thing beyond compilation,) to attempt an introductory work on Natural History. Goldsmith's entertaining and instructive "Animated Nature," has been the chief source of information, in describing the manners and habits of animals.

Should a single child be led to treat with compassion and tenderness the brute creation, from the perusal of these their short and simple annals, the trouble of transcribing them will be fully rewarded. But inexpressible would be the happiness, could the idea be cherished, that the occasional reflections which the subjects suggest, should lead the mind of the little reader, "through Nature, up to Nature's God."

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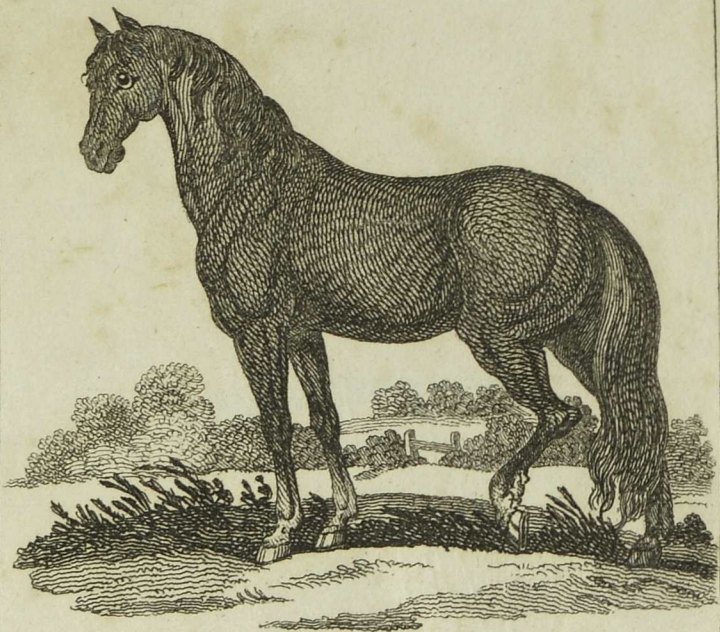


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Horse



Ass

B

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

Quadrupeds.

THE HORSE.

OF all quadrupeds, the Horse seems the most beautiful. The nobleness of his form, the glossy smoothness of his skin, and the graceful ease of his motions, make him a just object of admiration.

In Europe, horses are only known in a domestic state; but in Asia, Africa, and America, there are great numbers that are wild. It is very difficult to catch them, for they are sagacious and vigilant to prevent a surprise. Four or five hundred of them herd together. When the herd sleeps, two or three keep watch like sentinels, and give notice of the approach of any danger, by snorting and making a noise,

which awakens the rest. Then they all set off full speed, and gallop so swiftly into the woods and forests, that they cannot be overtaken. The same horses do not always stand sentinels, but they take it by turns to watch, for their common safety. Sometimes, however, one is caught, and may be easily tamed by care and attention, and then it never becomes wild again, not even if it should be turned out into the woods.

In England there are several kinds of horses; hunters, races, dray and cart horses, &c. &c. All these are employed in different ways, and are all useful.

This animal is so docile and gentle, that it may be trained to draw carriages and heavy weights, to carry burdens, and even to let his back be mounted by man.

It requires skill and judgment to break a young horse; that is, to teach it to obey its master; for, at first, colts do not like to be mounted. If they are whipped and ill-used, it makes them obstinate and vicious; but patience and gentleness will, in the end, succeed in making them obedient.

A horse knows the person who feeds and takes care of him. Some horses, that have been much noticed and petted, have been taught

a great many tricks. A little boy had a pony that he was very fond of, and he taught it to follow him about like a dog, even to go up stairs after him, and to eat bread or biscuit out of his hand. It is not necessary to treat horses in this manner; but it is cruel and ungrateful to suffer such useful creatures to be beaten or ill used, and starved when too old to work. What would man do, if there were no horses? How hard must people work if they had no horses to work for them! When we reflect on the comfort and pleasure we derive from the use of these animals, we ought to be very thankful and grateful to Almighty God. If God had not made horses, or if he had not given man the power of taming and teaching them to obey him, how many instances of profit and satisfaction would be lost to him.

The horse is not only serviceable whilst alive, but is of great use even when dead. His skin makes leather, his hoofs glue, &c.; his hair is made into a kind of cloth, for the coverings of sofas and chairs, and is used as stuffing for a great many things. The flesh of the horse is not eaten in England; but it is in China, and in some other countries.

Mare's milk is reckoned in some places very

wholesome and good for coughs. It is the chief food of a number of people who are called Tartars.

The female is called a mare, and a young one a foal: when it grows bigger, it is called a colt.

THE ASS.

The Ass is smaller, and not so beautiful as the horse. His ears are much longer in proportion, and his coat is rough and shaggy.

The ass is found wild in many countries, and is caught in traps that are dug for that purpose. When wild he is extremely fierce and very swift, but he is easily tamed, and then becomes patient and slow.

In England there are no asses but those that are in a domestic state. Rich people seldom care about these animals, so that they generally belong to poor people, because they are very useful in carrying burdens, and do not require to be fed so well, and to be taken the same care of as horses do.

The poor creature is often made to work hard all day, and then at night is turned out on a common, or in the lanes, to find food for himself. He will eat almost any vegetable; but prefers the plantain, and is likewise very

fond of thistles. Though he is so indifferent about his food, he is particular to drink only clear and clean water.

This is said to be a stupid animal; but probably he is rendered so by the ill-treatment he meets with. He is loaded so heavily sometimes, that he can hardly carry the weight, and then his cruel driver beats and goads him for not going faster. At times, when he is used in this manner, he will stop entirely, and not move a step, as if quite in despair. Instead of beating the poor, tired, half-starved beast, how much more humane it would be to treat him kindly and take care to feed him; then he would be stronger, and able to do more work. He is not naturally stupid: even as he is treated now, he knows his master, and will discover by the smell which road he is gone. Asses have been taught to dance, and to play as many tricks as dogs or other animals. In Spain, formerly, they were taken great care of, and they grew much larger, and handsomer, and stronger, than any that are to be seen here.

Though the ass is not so swift as the horse, he possesses one advantage, which is, that he is more sure-footed: he is rarely known to stumble, and will go close to the edge of a precipice, without any danger of falling down.

It must be highly displeasing to God, to see the cruelty and barbarity that is often exercised on this unfortunate creature; for though God has given us animals for our use, he never intended we should ill-treat them. Let us remember, that he made all things, and that he is so merciful and good, that he wills the happiness of all his creatures. We never can be cruel, without offending God.

The skin of the ass is thicker than that of the horse: it is made into leather for drums, shoes, &c. and when prepared and glazed, it makes the pretty shining leaves, that are put into pocket-books, to be written on with pencil.

The flesh is never eaten here; but it is in many places, and is considered very nice and delicate.

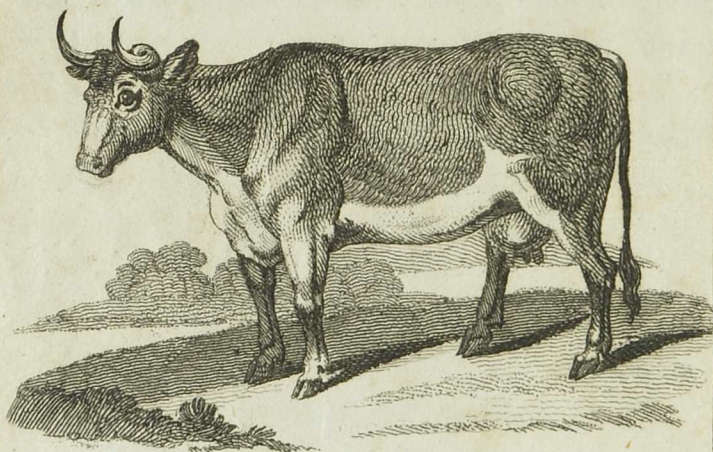
The milk is very light and nourishing, and is often given to sick people. Many who have been very ill, have been quite recovered by drinking it.

The young one is called a foal: it is a very pretty, frolicsome, playful thing, and gambols about its dam, which is extremely fond of it.

The ass lives about twenty or twenty-five years.



Zebra



Cow

THE ZEBRA.

There are only three animals of the horse kind:—the Horse, the Ass, and the Zebra. This last quadruped is found in Africa. Large herds are sometimes seen feeding in the vast plains towards the Cape of Good Hope; but they are so watchful, that they will not suffer any thing to go near to them, and they are so swift, that they cannot be overtaken.

The zebra is smaller than the horse, but larger than the ass. Its ears are larger than those of the horse, but not so large as the ass's ears. Its skin is smooth, and it is very beautifully striped. The colours of the male are white and brown; the colours of the female, white and black.

These creatures are very timid, and very wild; none have ever yet been tamed, though a few have been caught. Two or three, at different times, have been brought over into England. One, some years ago, was given to queen Charlotte, consort of George the Third. The man who had the care of it treated it kindly, and tried to make it tame; but notwithstanding it was young when caught, it always continued quite wild. Yet it is thought that it would be

possible to tame them, if they could be taken when very young indeed, before they had been accustomed to gallop about the forests.

They are not difficult to feed, for one of those which was in England would eat almost any thing, as bread, meat, and tobacco; and another lived upon hay.

THE COW.

There is hardly any country in the world where the Cow is not found. It is a most useful and serviceable animal, without which man would have many wants unsupplied. Doubtless, this is one reason why God has made cows so common, and spread them over all the earth; for we find that he is so kind and merciful, that he consults the good and happiness of mankind in all his works. Those animals that are useful to man, abound in great numbers; while those that are of no use to him, or that would destroy him, are few and rare, compared with the others.

Cows differ in shape and size: some are large, some small; some have horns, some have not any. There is one species that is called the Bison, which has a great hump on its back, and a vast deal of hair about its head, which

makes it look very formidable; but at the Cape of Good Hope, where it is chiefly found, the people tame it, and it is as gentle as the common cow.

In some parts of England, oxen are used to draw carts and to plough the land, which they do as well as horses would; though they take a longer time to perform the work, because they are slow and heavy in their movements. But then they do not cost so large a sum of money as horses, and their food is not so expensive.

Cows live entirely on vegetables. They eat the long, coarse grass, and swallow it at once without chewing it, into the first part of their stomach, which is called the paunch. Afterwards they have the power of bringing what they have so swallowed up again into their mouths, and then chew and grind it with their teeth, till it is fit to be received into the stomach. Animals that do this, are said "to chew the cud," and are likewise called *ruminating animals*; because, to ruminate, is to chew the cud. There are other animals that chew the cud besides cows: sheep and goats are ruminating animals.

The milk of the cow forms great part of the food of man. When left to stand, the thick,

rich part rises to the top, and is called cream; it is skimmed off, and is used for making butter, as well as drank in tea and eaten with fruit, &c. In some places the milk and cream are churned together. What is left in the churn after the butter is made, is called buttermilk, and is very wholesome and nourishing, though not pleasant to the taste, except to those who are accustomed to its flavour. Cheese is likewise made of milk.

When dead, the cow is of much service also. The flesh is eaten, and considered very good: it is called *beef*. The flesh of the calf is called *veal*. The skin, when tanned, makes leather. To tan, is to prepare the skins (which are called hides) in a particular manner, with the bark of trees. The hoofs and horns make glue and many other things.

The male is the bull, the female the cow, the young one a calf.

When we reflect how much of our food, clothing, and furniture, &c. is derived from this quiet, humble beast, we cannot be too thankful to Almighty God, for the enjoyment of such a blessing. We ought to show we are deserving of his gift, by our humanity to the creature that affords us so many comforts.

Buffalo



Sheep

THE BUFFALO.

This animal is of the cow kind. It very nearly resembles the English cow, but is somewhat larger, and more awkward and clumsy. It is found in some parts of Europe. In Asia and Africa it is very common. When wild it is extremely fierce and dangerous; but it is not difficult to tame, and then is useful for many domestic purposes. The female has a great deal of milk, which, though not so good as the milk of the cow, is, nevertheless, made into cheese and butter. The flesh, likewise, is eaten, but it is not so good as beef.

The hide makes a particular kind of leather, which is much valued.

When these beasts are tamed, they are used to draw carriages, carry loads, to plough, &c. in the same way that oxen are employed in this country. Thus we see, that in every part of the world God has taken care of mankind. Where there are few or no cows, he has given the people another animal better suited to the climate, and which is equally serviceable to them.

THE SHEEP.

Sheep are timid creatures, and with reason, for they are not able to defend themselves from the attack of an enemy. They are too slow to fly from any danger, and they are too feeble to fight in their own cause. They would, therefore, be soon devoured or worried to death, if they were not protected by man; but they are of so much use to him, that he is very willing to take all the trouble that is necessary to preserve them.

Sheep in this country thrive extremely: they live together in large flocks. Where they feed on plains or downs, they have generally a shepherd to take care of them, who has a particular kind of dog, which is very serviceable in keeping the flock together, and in driving back any one that strays from the rest. At night they are penned up in a sheep-fold, which has hurdles all round, and the dogs guard them against every danger. In some places the shepherds teach their sheep to follow the sound of their pipe, which is a little musical instrument, on which they play a great deal, and the sheep appear to like the sound of it.

The wool of the sheep is called its fleece: it

is of much use. Every summer the wool is cut off with large shears. This is shearing the sheep, and when done carefully and properly, does not hurt the poor creatures; on the contrary, it must be pleasant to get rid of so heavy a load off their backs, in hot, sultry weather. The wool, when prepared, is spun, and made into a variety of articles, both for furniture and clothing. Carpets, blankets, flannel, worsted, &c. are all made of wool.

The flesh of the sheep is called *mutton*; the flesh of the young one, *lamb*. The skin makes a kind of paper, which is called parchment: it is much stronger than common paper: it will not tear so easily, and lasts for many years; for which reason many things are written on it, when it is wished to preserve them a number of years.

The male is called a ram, the female a ewe, the young one a lamb.

The sheep of different countries differ a little from each other. There is one species remarkable for the size of the tail, and is, in consequence, called the Broad-tailed Sheep. In Iceland a kind is found that has four horns, sometimes even eight. In all cold climates the wool is thick and warm: in warm climates, on the contrary, it is thin, and like hair. God

suits the animal's clothing to the climate in which it is to live. Nor are we to think that he made the poor sheep so little able to defend themselves as we see them. Those we possess have been tamed and made less sensible by man. The wild sheep are very different. The Moufflon, which is this quadruped in its natural state, is strong, active, and very well able to take care of itself. It is swift enough to escape, generally, from the pursuit of the larger beasts of prey, and has courage to defend itself against the smaller animals. This is, however, always the case. When brutes are domesticated and fed, and protected by man, they soon forget their natural habits, and depend entirely on him for safety, and even for life. How base and ungenerous would it be, to render these dumb creatures helpless, and unable to provide for their own wants, and then to allow them to perish, or to suffer in any way from carelessness and inattention. It is cowardly and cruel to torment any creature that is in our power, and has not even the means of defence.

THE GOAT.

This is an animal that very much resembles the sheep. It has not, however, been so domes-

Goat



Chamois



Iber



Gazelle or Antelope



ticated by man, and therefore is more like its natural or wild state. Instead of wool it has hair, and is stronger and more active than the sheep. It is fond of climbing high and rocky places, and requires little care, as it will easily find food for itself. It eats heath and shrubs, and the tops and bark of young trees. It can bear very cold climates, as well as very warm ones.

In some parts of Ireland, and in the Highlands of Scotland, the people would hardly be able to live without their goats. These creatures find food enough on those bleak and barren mountains; and the poor inhabitants of those countries make comfortable beds with the skins of these animals. Besides, they live chiefly on the goat's milk, which is very nourishing, and make some of it into butter and cheese.

The young ones are called kids.

There are several kinds of goats that are found in different countries, but all are very much alike. The hair of some of them is beautifully soft and silky, and is made into stuffs that are greatly admired.

The IBEX is of the goat kind, but has large horns, bent backwards, and full of knots. It is

said, that sometimes the horns are two yards long.

The CHAMOIS is likewise of the goat kind. It is found amongst the Alps. It is a very swift, wild animal; but when tamed is gentle and docile. It climbs steep rocks, and jumps from crag to crag, where no other creature could venture to go. The chamois herd together in great numbers. The skin makes soft, pleasant leather, and the flesh is thought very good eating; therefore, the people go sometimes to hunt them, but it is difficult to get near them, for they are very vigilant. Their senses of seeing and smelling are so acute, that they discover a man at a great distance. The first that sees an enemy begins a hissing, which gets louder and louder till all the rest are alarmed, and then they fly off very swiftly. Dogs are of no use in hunting them, as no dogs could follow these wild and active creatures; so the men generally hide themselves behind the crags and in holes, and shoot them. Sometimes if a chamois is nearly taken, it will turn and push its enemy down a precipice, if he is standing on the edge of one.

The chamois dislikes heat, and, during the summer, hides itself in caverns and holes on the north side of the mountains, and only

goes out to feed early in the morning, or late in the evening.

THE GAZELLE.

The Gazelle is an animal which in some things resembles the goat, and in others the deer. There are several kinds of the gazelle, but they do not differ much from each other: some are as large as stags, and there is one species that is not nearly so big as the common goat. They are all beautiful, swift, and timid creatures, flying at the smallest alarm.

They are found in many parts of Asia, Africa, and America. They herd together; but as they are very active, and traverse swiftly rocks and mountains, where no dogs or horses can follow them, they are not easily taken. However, the people of the country are fond of hunting these pretty wild animals, and for this purpose train up the falcon to seize upon them. They go out into the forests and mountains on horseback: the falcon sits quietly on the hand of one of the hunters, till it is shown its prey and encouraged to pursue it; then it darts upon it like an arrow, and fixes one talon in the cheek, and the other in the throat of the gazelle. The poor terrified creature flies as rapidly as it can, but it is of

no use. The falcon never quits its hold, till the wretched animal, worn out with pain and fatigue, drops down. The hunters soon come up, seize their prey, but allow the falcon to suck the blood, as a reward for its exertions, and to induce it to do the same another time. Young falcons are taught by putting them to the throat of a dead gazelle. This is likewise of use to accustom them to attack the throat; for if they fixed on the back or legs, the poor thing might have strength to escape.

A quadruped called an Ounce is also trained to kill them much in the same manner. Sometimes a tame gazelle, with cords fastened round its horns, is sent into a forest amongst a herd of wild ones. When those that are wild come up to drive away the tame one, their horns are entangled in the cords, and the hunters can then catch them without much trouble.

It is a great pity that hunting is so much liked. There are some countries, where the people are obliged to hunt, to get food for themselves and families; and some beasts are so ravenous and mischievous, that they must be destroyed, or man could not live in safety. These are good reasons for hunting; but it is as barbarous and cruel as the wild beasts themselves, to hunt poor harmless creatures for sport

and pleasure. How strange! that any man can be so cruel as to find pleasure and amusement in tormenting, terrifying, and giving pain! How different is God, who delights in mercy, and is kind and good to all things.

THE DEER.

There are many kinds of deer: the Stag, the Fallow Deer, the Roe-buck, &c. The stag is an elegant animal, with long, slender legs, to enable him to run swiftly; and large, branching horns on his head, which make him look very magnificent.

The female is called a hind, and the young one a calf. The hind is very fond of her young, and hides them with great care in the closest thickets; for many birds and many animals would devour them, if they could discover them whilst very little. Even the stag himself is so unnatural, that he would kill them, instead of defending them.

In England, the stag is generally red; but in some places it is brown: sometimes, too, it is white. It sheds its horns every year. The horns are used in medicine and for other purposes. The flesh is called venison: it is considered a great delicacy.

Even in this country the poor stag is often hunted. A number of men on horseback go out with a pack of hounds, and as soon as they find a stag, it is so frightened that it flies away, and all the men and dogs go after it. As it is much swifter than the dogs, it soon leaves them far behind. When it is out of the noise and confusion of the dogs, it will stop to rest; but it is soon alarmed again, for the dogs keep up a steady pace and overtake it. The stag leaves a smell on the ground over which it treads, and by this, which is called the scent, the hounds, having an acute smell, can follow and overtake it wherever it goes. Though it is so fleet, it tires sooner than the dogs; at last, therefore, it is overtaken by them and killed. When near taken, it will try to go into the water; and it often tries many ways of deceiving its enemies and escaping from them, but it seldom succeeds.

The stag is harmless and inoffensive. There is no reason why it should be hunted, but that men like the sport. It is a cruel sport: but many men who are not cruel in other things, are fond of hunting. If these people would reflect on the terror and misery they make the poor stag suffer, probably they would not hunt any more. Many people continue to do what



Stag



Hog

they have been accustomed to do, or to see others do, without considering the consequences.

THE HOG.

This animal was formerly found wild in this country: now there are none but tame hogs in England. However, the Wild Boar is still to be found in most countries. This is the name of the animal in a wild state; and then it differs very much from the same creature in a domestic state.

The wild boar is very fierce when attacked, and has tusks about a foot long, with which it defends itself so well, that few beasts will attack it. It is quiet when left alone; for it prefers vegetable food when it can get it: when it cannot, it will eat the carcass of any animal it finds, even if it is putrid.

In the countries where the wild boar is found, the inhabitants are fond of hunting him. For this purpose, the men go on horseback, and have long spears in their hands, and they take a great many dogs with them. The wild boar does not run fast, and very often turns to fight the dogs; but they are fearful of going near, so keep at a distance, barking and worrying him, till at last he sets off again, when the dogs

all follow him, taking care not to go within reach of his tusks. When he is quite tired, he will not go any further; then, if there are any young dogs, sometimes they try to seize him, and are often killed. The old dogs, which know the danger, keep back till the hunters come up, who strike the boar with their spears till he is killed.

The male is called a boar, the female a sow, the young ones, pigs.

The tame hog is a stupid-looking, disgusting creature. He will eat all day, and any thing that is given him, let it be ever so filthy. If a hog be fed sufficiently, he will eat till he grows so fat that he is not able to stand or move. His gluttony makes him subject to many diseases; and he is so nasty an animal, that it is very difficult to keep him tolerably clean. Disagreeable as this creature is, it is kept and fed, because the flesh is much liked: it is made into pork, hams, bacon, &c. The hair, likewise, is used for brushes and other things.

Though apparently stupid, the hog may be taught many tricks. One poor creature, some years ago, was taught the alphabet, and to put letters together, so as to spell the words his master asked for. Probably, the unfortunate animal had been beaten and ill used, to

teach him to do what was so unnatural. It is most likely the man made some sign, to let the pig know when he was to bring a letter.

No one can admire pigs; but then there is no reason to ill-treat them, or to torment them in any way; indeed, most of their disgusting manners they acquire after they are domesticated. Besides, as brutes do not know what is right and what is wrong, they cannot be blamed for what they do. It is different with men, and women, and children. God has given them reason and understanding: they know what is pleasing and right, and what is disgusting and improper; yet too many people act like the beasts we are reading of, and spend a great deal of time in eating, and thinking about eating. They do not consider, that by indulging their gluttony, they may acquire many loathsome and painful diseases. Besides, it is beneath a rational being to take such great pleasure in eating and drinking. A wise man will only eat when he is hungry, and drink when he is thirsty. He will be contented with what he has, if it is wholesome and proper food; and he will always remember to be thankful to God, that he has enough to satisfy his hunger; particularly when he recollects how many hundreds of poor peo-

ple are starving from want, and would be grateful for any thing.

THE CAT.

There are many animals of the cat kind: they are all fierce and difficult to tame, and do not live on vegetables, like those creatures that have been mentioned before, but eat flesh. They are beasts of prey, and do not herd together, like those that are harmless; but live alone, and hunt alone.

The Common Cat is the only one of the kind, that man has ever taken under his protection. The cat is a pretty little animal, very useful in houses, to keep them free from mice and other vermin. It is for this reason that people are so fond of cats. There is nothing interesting in the disposition of this quadruped. Though brought up in houses, it can hardly be called tame; for a cat seldom attaches itself to its master: indeed, it seldom seems to know any of the family, and appears to be more fond of the places to which it is accustomed, than to the people with whom it lives. It is sly and treacherous. Often when the cat seems pleased with being stroked and caressed, it will strike out its sharp claws, and stick them into the

hand that is fondling it. It is likewise cruel, and delights in teasing and tormenting a poor mouse or bird, which it has caught, before it kills it. The cat is very patient, and will sometimes sit many hours watching a mouse-hole, and keeping quite still, sometimes pretending to be asleep till the mouse comes out, then with a sudden spring it seizes the little animal in a moment.

The cat has a particular objection to water, and will not wet its feet if it can avoid it.

The fur is very electric. If a cat be carried into a dark room, and the fur rubbed up the wrong way, electric sparks will be seen. These sparks look like fire, but will not burn, though they occasion an unpleasant feel in the hands, if they are strong. They are always stronger if the fur is black, and the weather is frosty.

A young cat is called a kitten: it is a remarkably pretty, active, playful creature. It is very amusing to see the old cat play with her kittens. She looks so grave and wise, whilst the kitten jumps about her; sometimes playing with its mother's tail, and sometimes with her face or ears. If the kitten becomes troublesome, and takes too great liberties, the old one will give it a gentle pat with her paw, to make it behave better.

Though cats are not generally attached to their masters, yet there are a few instances of the contrary. And though dogs and cats are naturally enemies, and will fight furiously, yet, if they are brought up together, they become good friends, and are very sociable. Indeed, stories are told of cats having become fond of animals which they generally seize as their prey. In a little book called "A Visit for a Week" may be found an account of a cat which took great care of a hen. When the hen was a chicken, just out of the shell, the farmer's wife to whom it belonged thought it was dying, and threw it to a cat which was in the room, that had lost all her kittens a few hours before. Instead of killing the poor sick chicken, the cat nursed it till it was well, and always walked about with it and took care of it. When the poultry was fed, the cat would not let any of the rest of the fowls eat a bit, till her favourite had eaten as much as it chose.

Mr. White, in his *Natural History of Selbourne*, tells of a cat which brought up a leveret in the same manner.

If cats are disliked, because they are shy and treacherous, how much more will children and men be disliked and despised, if they have the same dispositions! A cat is sly and artful, be-

cause she is hungry, and finds that without being so she could not seize her prey; but a child can have what he wants by asking for it, if it is proper for him: if it is not proper for him, he is silly to endeavour to get it.

A cat is a very delicate animal, and is easily hurt. If she is pulled about by children, she is soon hurt, and then, as she cannot know whether it is done in play or not, she of course puts out her sharp claws to defend herself. A cat cruelly torments its victim before she kills it; but she does not know that she inflicts pain. It is quite different with a little boy or girl. Every child knows, that when he beats or ill uses any animal, he gives it pain; and he knows, likewise, how disagreeable pain is, because he can remember what he feels, if he is beaten, or if he falls or hurts himself.

Besides the domestic cats that are found in houses, there is a species of wild cat that lives in woods. It is much the same as the common cat, only rather larger and fiercer. Cats are to be met with in all parts of the world, and are all nearly alike.

THE LION.

The Lion is one of the strongest, noblest, and fiercest animals to be found. He inhabits many parts of Asia and Africa: formerly, he was to be met with in Europe; but now there are none, except those that are brought over from other countries, and kept in cages as curiosities. There are not so many lions now, as there were many years ago, for men hunt and try to destroy them as much as possible.

This animal is about three or four feet high; has a great deal of long, shaggy hair round his face and neck, which makes him look very terrible; and a long mane. His teeth are very long and sharp. He has claws like the cat's, only much larger; a rough tongue, set with prickles; and large, flaming eyes. He sees better in a faint light than in a very bright glare; therefore, he comes out to seize his prey at night.

He generally lives in large forests, far from the habitations of men, for he soon learns that they can subdue him; therefore, a lion will seldom venture to come amongst men, unless he is impelled by hunger. In the forests, he feeds on the gazelles and monkeys, when they come



Lion



Lioness

on the ground. He cannot climb trees; but often hides himself like a cat, and springs unexpectedly on his victim. He cannot be considered a cruel beast, however, for he does not attack animals unless he is hungry, and then only kills as much as he eats.

All lions are not equally large and strong. Those that are in the hottest climates are observed to be the most courageous and formidable. The lioness, (which is the female,) is not so strong as the male; but when her cubs are young, she will venture into any danger to procure food for them. She is smaller than the lion, of the same yellow colour, but has no mane.

Few creatures will dare to attack this noble beast alone. The elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, and hippopotamus, however, will sometimes. But man can easily destroy him; for the reason and judgment that God has given man, enable him to conquer the most dangerous animals. Though both horses and dogs are afraid of the lion in a wild state, they may be trained to hunt him with men. Several men with long spears go out on horseback with their dogs. When the lion is found, one man strikes him with his spear, and whilst he prepares to spring on the man, another strikes him behind; he

then turns on him, when he is struck on another side; and so on till he is sufficiently worn out for the dogs to attack him. Sometimes pit-falls are dug in the forests, and then covered over at the top with grass and branches of trees. If a lion passes over, the covering will not bear his weight, so he falls to the bottom and is taken alive.

Often the natives of the country discover where the cubs are, and when the lioness is gone in search of food for her young, they carry them off.

The lion in several instances has been tamed, and rendered gentle and playful with his keeper. Some years ago, one was at the tower of London, which had a little dog living with him in his den, of which he was very fond, and to which he always gave some part of his food.

The roar of the lion, when not displeased, is extremely loud; but when enraged, he lashes his sides with his long tail, and makes a most hideous and tremendous roaring. The age to which he lives is not known, but is supposed to be very great.

THE TIGER.

Nothing can be more beautiful than the tiger. His skin is smooth and glossy, finely



Tiger



Leopard

striped with bright yellow and black. His form is slender and elegant, and his air altogether gentle and placid. This great beauty is deceitful; for no animal is more fierce, savage, and untameable. The lion only attacks his prey when hungry, and only devours enough to satisfy his appetite: on the contrary, the tiger seems to delight in destruction, for he will at all times commit dreadful ravages in the country which is so unfortunate as to be near him. If he meet a flock or herd, he will kill as many as possible, going on from one to another, without even stopping to eat. He will even carry off a young elephant or rhinoceros, and sometimes attacks the lion himself. It is well for man, as well as the brute creation, that this formidable animal is very rare: it is only found in some parts of India; and even there it is extremely scarce. It lurks much about the sides of lakes and rivers, both because the heat of the climate makes it suffer from thirst, and because in these places it has many opportunities of seizing its prey, when the poor creatures come down to drink. It is immensely strong, for it will carry off a horse or a buffalo, when dead, on its back, with as much ease as a fox will run off with a goose.

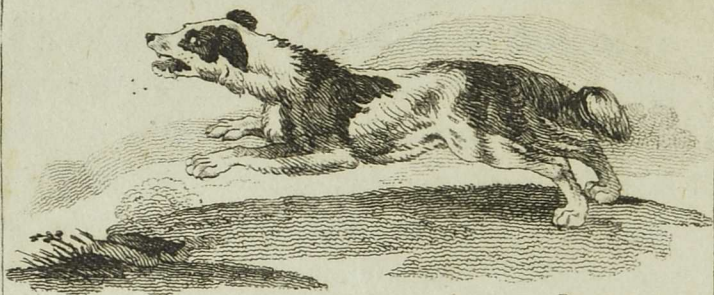
A curious story is told of some ladies and

gentlemen, who, sitting under the shade of some trees, near a river in Bengal, were alarmed by the sight of a tiger. One of the ladies instantly caught up a large umbrella, and unfurled it suddenly in the horrid animal's face. It was so surprised at this unexpected reception, that it went back into the woods, and all the company escaped. This was wonderful presence of mind in the lady: had she screamed or attempted to have run away, certainly she or one of the party would have fallen a victim. She did the only thing that could have saved herself and friends. To do what is best in any sudden danger, is to act with presence of mind. To shriek, to cry, or to give way to terror, only increases the danger, for it prevents us from using our reason, and may likewise prevent others from being able to give us assistance.

There are three kinds of tigers, all very much alike. The tigress is not so large as the male: but in defence of her cubs, or to procure food for them, is quite outrageous.

In America there is an animal very like the tiger, but smaller and weaker, which is called the Cougar.

The PANTHER and the LEOPARD are both of



Dog



Wolf



Fox

the tiger kind; the chief difference is, that their skins are spotted instead of streaked.

The Leopard is not so large as the Panther.

Besides these, there are other animals which, in habits and manners, resemble this tribe, but are smaller than the tiger:—the Ounce, the Cata-mountain or Tiger-cat, the Lynx, &c.

The Ounce, however, may be tamed, and rendered gentle and docile. It is often employed in hunting the gazelle, as was mentioned before.

THE DOG KIND.

Dogs are of such great service to man, that almost all the tribe are domesticated. However, there are still some to be found wild, particularly in the woods of America. These animals do not hunt alone, as those of the cat kind do; but as a single dog would not be able to attack any of the large beasts, they join together, and hunt in packs. Their numbers make up for the want of individual strength, and by these means they procure food enough for all. When animal food cannot be had, they will subsist on vegetables; but never do so from choice.

There are many different species; all, gene-

rally speaking, sagacious, active, and courageous, though some certainly possess more intelligence than others. They cannot climb trees like cats, but have the sense of smelling remarkably acute.

When young they are called puppies; and, for the first nine days of their lives, are blind.

Man is more indebted to this useful quadruped, than to any other that exists. The dog is not only the servant of man, but is his faithful friend and constant companion. The dog guards his master's house and property with the utmost vigilance. He will not be bribed, to let any stranger come near the mansion he is to protect, without alarming the family with incessant barking. He knows his master, and on his return after an absence, will go out to welcome him; and he testifies his joy by fawning and licking his hands, and various other signs of happiness. If so unfortunate as to lose his master, he even appears to feel sorrow and regret.

The dog, likewise, affords man great assistance in his dominion over other animals. The shepherd would with difficulty keep his flock together without the aid of his dog; for the sheep pay more ready obedience to him, than to the shepherd himself. Besides, he contri-

butes greatly to the amusement of man, not only by his playful tricks, and affectionate attention when walking or in the house, but by the part he takes in all country diversions. Hunting and shooting could not be practised without the dog.

The flesh of the dog is eaten in some places, particularly in China.

The Shepherd's Dog has already been mentioned. The Hound is chiefly used for the chase. The Mastiff is very valuable as a guard, and is frequently kept in farm-yards. The Bull-dog is a fierce, horrid animal. It is so named, because it is the species that is employed in bull-baits; but it is so quarrelsome, that it will fight and attack any creature, and so strong, that it is dangerous; for this reason it is always chained, or, if allowed to run about, is muzzled, to prevent mischief.

The Blood-hound is little known in this country at present; but in former times was much prized, and employed to hunt out thieves and robbers. A story is told, that not long ago a farmer lost a great many sheep. The robbery was repeated very often, and though he took a great deal of trouble to discover who stole them, he could not learn any thing of the thief. At last a gentleman who lived in the

neighbourhood, and who had a blood-hound, proposed to carry him to the field the next time any sheep were taken, to see if he could trace the footsteps of the person who had committed the theft. This was accordingly done. The blood-hound examined the field for some minutes. At last he found the scent, and left the field, running straight along with his nose close to the ground. The men followed him. He went to a village some miles distant, ran through a house into a garden behind, and when he got to the end of the garden he stopped, and would not move from the spot. Some of the people told the woman of the house the cause of their coming. She said her husband was out, and denied, very positively, having any knowledge of the sheep. By this time it was seen that the blood-hound had scratched a deep hole in the earth, and seemed desirous of getting at something underground. The men, therefore, when the husband returned, insisted on digging, to see if any thing was buried there. The man objected strongly, but in vain; and, after digging a little, a trap-door was seen, which, when opened, led into a place where the skins and remains of the poor sheep were found.

The blood-hound was sometimes used in the

West Indies to trace out any unfortunate slave who had run away from his master; but, as the slave-trade is now abolished, that is, put an end to, it is to be hoped there will be no slaves in the course of some years.

The Greyhound is remarkably elegant in his form. His sense of smelling is not acute; but he is so swift, that when he pursues the hare, he never loses sight of the poor terrified animal.

The Spaniel and the Pointer are both used for shooting.

The Poodle is extremely intelligent, and seems kept only for the amusement of his master. He may be taught easily to fetch and carry, open a door, poise a stick on his nose, jump up at the word of command, and many other tricks.

The Lap-dog is the least interesting of all the tribe; yet some ladies are so foolishly fond of it, that they have as much care taken in washing and combing the little beast, as if it were a child. Indeed, there have been instances of dogs of this class being pampered with chickens and every dainty. It is to be hoped that they are rare. It is not only silly, but wicked, to lavish on a brute money that might be bestowed on the poor. What can that per-

son say in palliation of her sinful extravagance, who has allowed a poor neighbour to starve, whilst she has fed her dog on delicacies! There is a wide difference between such absurd indulgence, and a proper care of the animals Providence intrusts to our protection.

The Newfoundland Dog is a large, noble creature, very sagacious, and most faithful in his attachment to his master. A dog something of this kind is employed in a country named Kamtschatka, to draw sledges over the ice.

The Terrier is a small, snappish, black dog; but is particularly mentioned here, to record the sagacity and attachment of one individual. A poor old woman, during a heavy fall of snow, went to the next market town, accompanied only by her little dog. The snow had drifted, and she, mistaking the road, fell, and was overwhelmed by it. The terrier returned home to his master, and pulled his coat, and tried every means in his power to make him go to the assistance of his perishing wife. The stupid old man drove the faithful creature away. He then went to a neighbour's house, and succeeded in getting an old friend of his mistress, who knew the dog, to follow him. When he came to the spot, he scratched with his feet, and his companion guessed the fact.

She went for assistance, but by the time the poor old woman was dug out, she was quite dead. Probably, if the master had had half the sense the dog had, his wife might have been saved.

It is not unusual to see people go about with dancing dogs: these are a set of half-starved animals, dressed up in petticoats, and taught, by dint of blows, to dance and play many antics. Their strange attitudes may make children laugh, but never can please any one who reflects on the means that have been used to make them learn these tricks. The same may be said of the learned dog, who knows his letters, &c.

The nobleness, generosity, and gratitude of the dog, may often make man blush. The dog never forgets the master who feeds, protects, and caresses him. How often does man entirely forget his great and benevolent Creator, who daily loads him with blessings!

THE WOLF.

The Wolf very much resembles the dog; but is larger and fiercer. He has rough, coarse hair, which is of a mixed colour—black, brown, and grey. His appetite is extremely voracious; but he seldom ventures near the habitation of

man till impelled by hunger: then, indeed, he will encounter any danger. He generally sleeps during the day, and comes out in search of food in the night. He will seize and carry off a sheep with ease. Sometimes, when one wolf is not strong enough to destroy the prey he is pursuing, several wolves will lend their assistance, and they hunt together in a pack for their mutual advantage. But they are not sociable animals, and never live together; they only hunt in packs to obtain food in greater plenty, and when they have divided the spoil, they separate.

The she-wolf is not so strong as the male, and is more timid, except in defence of her young. At first she suckles her cubs; as they grow older, she brings them animal food, which she teaches them to eat, by chewing it for them; when bigger, she brings them hares, birds, &c. alive. The cubs play with the poor creatures some time, and at last kill them; then she gives each a share.

Though this quadruped has so great a resemblance to the dog in outward form, he differs much from him in disposition. The wolf is never tamed, even if taken very young. He never loses his savage habits, and will fly to his woods again, if possible to escape.

There is a violent dislike between the two animals: the very smell of a wolf is odious to a dog. If a young dog smells a wolf, even the first time, he betrays signs of terror and disgust, and runs to his master for protection; on the contrary, an old dog that is conscious of his strength, will boldly attack the enemy, and fight till one or the other falls. If the wolf conquers, he devours the body of the dog; but if the dog is victorious, he will not touch the wolf.

The flesh of the wolf appears very bad, for hardly any animal will eat it. However, wolves prey on each other; and if one is wounded, the rest will fall upon him, and tear him to pieces without mercy.

At present, none of these savage beasts are natives of England, Ireland, or Scotland. Formerly there were many; but the kings of England, particularly Edward the First, were very active to effect their destruction. These creatures took refuge in the mountains of Wales after they were driven out of England; but early in the history of England we read that a king, named Edgar, obliged the Welch to pay a tribute of three hundred wolves' heads annually, instead of the sum of money they were accustomed to pay. By these and similar

means, they were in the end all killed. Great Britain, being a small country and an island, the inhabitants were able to extirpate the whole race; but on the continent, from the immense extent of land, it is impossible to get rid of them. In France, Germany, &c. they abound. It is a favourite amusement in some places to hunt them; and they are likewise often taken in pit-falls. It is perfectly allowable to endeavour to destroy an animal that is so destructive to man.

The fur of the wolf is dressed, and though coarse and common, is very durable.

THE FOX.

The Fox resembles both the wolf and the dog in many particulars, yet it is not exactly like either. It is difficult to give a clear, correct idea of the figure of animals by words; much less is it in the power of any one to point out the minute, but distinguishing differences, that subsist between the various species of the same kind. No one that has seen a wolf, a dog, and a fox, will ever be likely to mistake one for the other; though it is nearly impossible to describe each accurately. The fox is considerably smaller than the wolf: his tail is

longer in proportion, and very bushy; his nose is sharper, and his fur softer. He has a strong, offensive smell, peculiar to the species.

This animal has long been noticed for his cunning and address, and for ages has been the subject of many tales and fables. Even *Æsop*, who lived many hundreds of years ago, makes the fox the hero of most of his entertaining fables.

The fox generally fixes his kennel near a wood, and at the same time not far from some cottage. He selects the situation with great judgment, and spares no labour to make his home secure from the attacks of enemies, and to conceal the entrance of it. He creeps slyly out in search of prey, and seldom returns without his booty. If he get into a farm-yard, he will kill all the poultry he can get at; then carrying off a part, he hides it in some convenient place. Returning, he carries off some more, which he hides likewise, but not in the same spot. He continues doing so till he has disposed of the whole, unless disturbed before his work is finished. If he find birds entangled in the snares of the fowler, he will expertly take them out of the springes, kill them, and hide them in the same manner. He will return in three or four days to fetch his hidden

treasure, as circumstances suit. He seizes young hares and rabbits before they have strength to escape, or any old ones that are wounded or feeble. He will eat any thing: rats, mice, serpents, toads, and lizards; even vegetables and insects, if nothing else is to be had. He often attacks the wild bee; and notwithstanding all the efforts of the swarm, generally succeeds in driving them away and devouring their combs, both honey and wax.

As the fox makes war on all animals which are weaker than himself, no wonder he is hated and detested by all the brute creation. The dog hunts him with eagerness; and the wolf, likewise, is a formidable enemy to him. Man, too, takes delight in pursuing him; but we are not to suppose that fox-hunters gallop over the country as they do, merely to destroy a mischievous animal. In fact, more mischief is done to the farmer in one chase, by the horses tearing up the corn-fields, &c. than a fox could do by robbing his poultry-yard for many months. But people who accustom themselves to the violent exercise of the fox-chase, frequently become immoderately fond of it, and spend their lives in little else but hunting, and drinking immense quantities of wine afterwards, to refresh them after their fatigue, and to be

agreeable to their riotous companions. It is almost to be regretted that these people have reason and understanding, as they thus disguise the noblest gifts the Almighty has bestowed on the human species. How strange! that beings who might possess the happiness of doing good to many, of enjoying rational conversation, and, by the acquirement of virtue and wisdom, render themselves worthy the favour of God, and hereafter fit companions for angels, should willingly degrade themselves to the level of brutes! nay, even below them! Such scenes of intemperance and senseless noise are quite beneath rational beings.

The generality of foxes are red; but in the cold countries round the pole they are of various colours: black, blue, gray, white; white, with red legs; white, with black heads; white, with the tip of the tail black. The blue fox skins are valued for their scarceness; but the black is most esteemed.

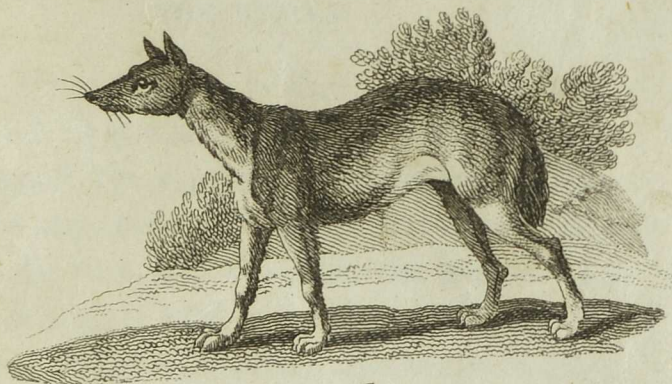
The she-fox is remarkably fond of her cubs, and has been known to carry one in her mouth when pursued by the hounds, rather than leave it behind.

THE JACKALL.

This quadruped is not found in Europe, but is very common in Asia and Africa. It is about the size of a middling dog, but as fierce and as ravenous as the wolf. It hides in holes during the day, and comes out in the night. It will enter into sheep-folds, stables, and even attack burying-grounds, digging up the graves, and feeding on the dead bodies.

Jackalls hunt in packs, and are very noisy when in pursuit of their prey. Their noise often attracts the lion, the tiger, and the panther. These larger beasts drive away the Jackalls when they have killed the animal they have been hunting, and will not allow them to touch a bit till they are satisfied. This circumstance gave rise to a story, that the Jackall hunted for the lion, and occasioned him to be called the lion's provider; but, in fact, the Jackall hunts for himself, and never intends to benefit the lion; but is obliged to yield, from want of strength to contend with his tremendous opposer.

When taken young, the Jackall is easily tamed.



Jackall



Hyena

THE HYÆNA.

The Hyæna is nearly the size of the wolf. The head, in size and shape, likewise resembles that animal: the legs are longer in proportion; and it is the only quadruped that has only four toes on the fore-feet as well as the hinder. Its hair is of a dirty gray, marked with black. Altogether, its figure, from its manner of holding its head down, and its back being elevated, has somewhat the appearance of the hog.

It is the most fierce, savage, untameable creature imaginable, for ever growling except when feeding. It is as horrid and ugly in form, as odious in disposition. It is found chiefly in the deserts of Africa. It lurks during the day in holes and caverns. As it is as courageous as voracious, it will even attack the panther, and defend itself against the lion.

When destitute of other food, it will tear up graves, and devour putrid carcasses.

THE WEASEL KIND.

This class of animals is very numerous. The various species differ, chiefly, from each other in size; in other respects they are all much

alike, in form as well as in disposition. They have all very long, slender bodies, in proportion to their height; soft, fine furs; and a remarkably strong, disagreeable smell. These creatures have obtained the name of vermin, from the length of their bodies, which has occasioned them to be compared to worms.

The common weasel is the smallest and best known of the kind. It is about seven inches from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, and not more than an inch and a half high. The tail, which is bushy, is two inches and a half long. The colour is a pale reddish brown on the back and sides, but white under the throat and stomach. It has whiskers like a cat, and thirty-two teeth, which are two more than any of the cat kind. The eyes are little and black; the ears short, broad, and roundish. This animal, though so diminutive, is a formidable enemy to quadrupeds an hundred times its size. It is very common in most parts of this country. In those parts where sheep and lambs are bred it is much dreaded, and is destroyed by every art. On the contrary, where agriculture is chiefly followed, the weasel is regarded as a friend, because it thins the number of those vermin that live principally on corn. When kept in a cage, it will not touch



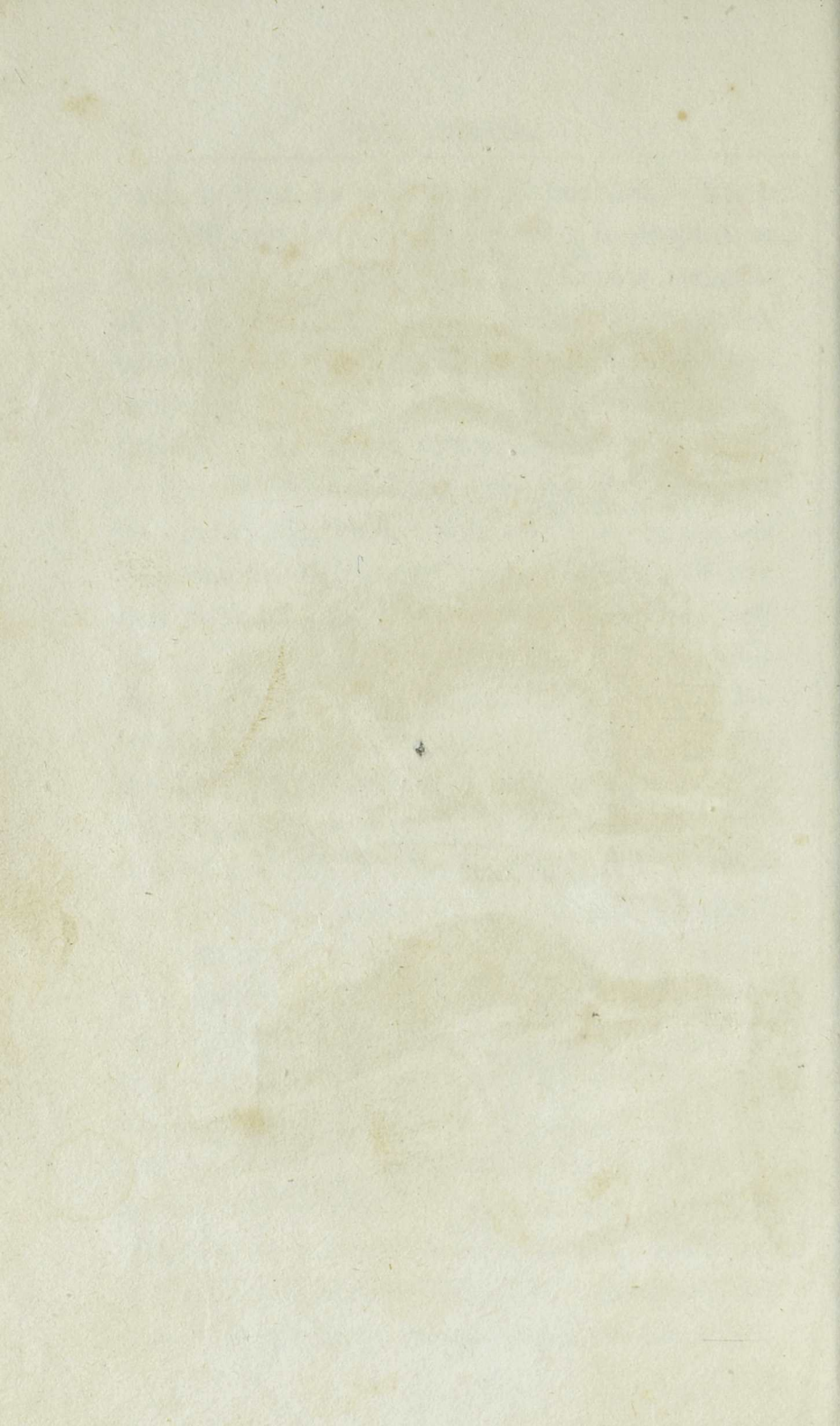
Weasel



Ferret



Polecat



its food whilst any body looks on. It must always be provided with a quantity of wool or hay, in which it may conceal itself, and where it may carry what it has to eat.

In its wild state it creeps out of its hole in the evening, and steals into a farm-yard in search of prey. It never attacks old cocks and hens; but seizes the young ones. It does not eat its prey on the spot; but, after killing it with a single bite near the head, making a wound so small as scarcely to be perceived, it carries it off to its hole. It also sucks the eggs, and sometimes kills the hen that tries to defend them. It is remarkably active: it will run up the sides of walls, and its body is so small, that there is scarcely any hole through which it cannot wind itself.

It makes war on rats and mice with better success than even the cat. It creeps into pigeon-holes, destroys the young, catches sparrows and other smalls birds.

The female takes great care of her young; and makes an easy bed for them, lining the bottom of the hole with grass, hay, leaves, and moss.

The weasel smells more strongly in summer than in winter; and more when pursued or irritated, than when at peace. It always preys

in silence, and seldom utters a cry but when struck.

M. de Buffon gives an entertaining account of one of these little animals which belonged to a young lady. She fed it frequently with bread and milk. It would jump into her hands at the distance of three feet: it would play many diverting tricks; but if she did not attend to its gambols, it soon left them off. It knew her, and would distinguish her voice among a number of people. It was as agile and as lively as a squirrel; and so extremely curious, that it would peep into every box and drawer. If, even, she held a piece of paper as if reading, it would immediately go to examine what she was about. It lived very sociably with a young cat and a dog which belonged to the same lady.

THE ERMINE OR STOAT.

This animal differs little from the weasel, except that its tail is black. In winter the fur changes to white, except the tail, which always remains black. When the fur is white, the animal is called the Ermine: in summer, when it is brown, it is known by the name of Stoat.

The ermine is found in Siberia and the north of Europe. The skins are a valuable article of commerce, and are highly esteemed for the closeness, softness, and warmth of the fur. In Siberia they burrow in the fields, and are taken in traps baited with flesh. In Norway they are either shot with blunt arrows, or caught in traps.

THE FERRET.

The Ferret is rather larger than the ermine. It is commonly of a cream-colour; but is sometimes found white, blackish brown, and party-coloured. Those that are white have red eyes.

This animal is a native of the torrid zone, and when brought here, requires to be protected from the rigours of the climate. It is a great enemy to the rabbit, and is often used in warrens. It enters the holes, and drives the rabbits into the nets that are prepared for them at the entrance. For this purpose it is muzzled; otherwise it would kill the rabbits, suck the blood, and remain at the bottom of the hole. Sometimes the muzzle gets off, and then the ferret is lost, unless it can be dug out; for, having all its wants satisfied in the warren, it does

not return to its owner, but lives during the summer at large, and dies in winter from cold. In order to force it out, straw is often burnt at the mouth of the hole; but as there are several issues to each hole, it is seldom affected by the smoke, or by the noise that is made to terrify it from its retreat.

THE POLECAT.

This animal so strongly resembles the ferret, that some people have imagined they were the same species; however, there is difference enough between them to decide that they are two distinct kinds. In the first place, the polecat is larger than the ferret, not so slender, and has a blunter nose; besides, the number of bones is not the same.

The polecat is generally of a deep chocolate colour: it is white about the mouth; the ears are short, rounded, and tipped with white; the throat, feet, and tail, are blacker than the other parts of the body; the claws are white underneath, and brown above; and its tail is about two inches and a half long. It is very destructive among young game. It is particularly fond of rabbits, and one polecat will often destroy a whole warren: for, like all the weasel tribe,

its thirst for blood is so great, that it kills many more than it can devour. However, its size prevents its taking up its abode so near houses as the weasel. In general its resides in woods; but in the winter will venture into houses, and rob the hen-roost and dairy. It likewise does much mischief in a dove-house: it will dispatch a vast number of pigeons in a very short time. When it is satisfied with sucking the blood, it begins to carry its spoil home one by one. If it happens that the hole through which it entered is not large enough to let the body of the pigeon pass, it contents itself with the head only, and feeds deliciously on the brains. - It is no less fond of honey.

This species is found in the moderate climates of Europe; but not in very cold, nor very hot ones.

The fur is soft and warm, but the smell is so offensive that it is little used.

THE MARTIN.

The Martin is still larger than the polecat, which it greatly resembles. It is one of the most pleasing of all the weasel tribe. There are two kinds, the yellow-breasted and the white-breasted Martin. The yellow-breasted

Martin is more common in France than in England.

The Martin feeds on sheep, poultry, rabbits, squirrels, rats, birds, and their eggs, &c. &c. As soon as it is pursued by the dogs, it makes to its retreat, which is usually in a hollow near the top of a tree, where it is impossible to get at it without cutting it down. Instead of making a nest for itself, it generally seizes on one belonging to a squirrel, often killing the owner: it takes possession, enlarges it if necessary, and makes it comfortable and fit for the reception of its young.

This little quadruped is more common in North America than in Europe. These animals are found in Siberia, China, &c. In all countries they are hunted for their furs, which are very valuable, particularly if taken in winter.

THE SABLE.

This is another of the weasel tribe, that is much sought after for its skin, which is more valuable than that of any other animal. In colour, it is brownish black; the darker it is, the more valuable. The sable is hunted in winter, because its fur is then the best.

These little animals are found in Siberia, a



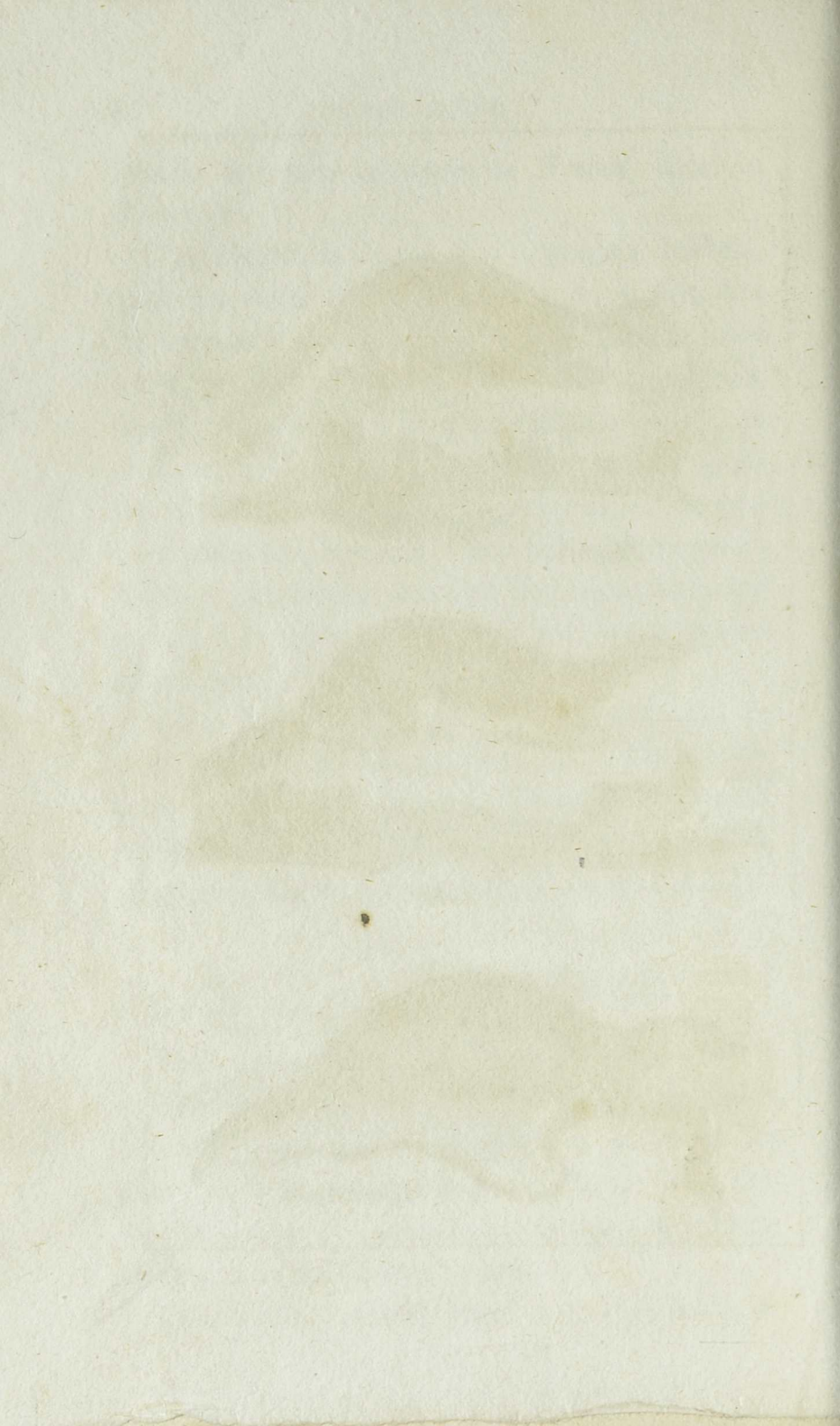
Martin



Sable



Ichneumon



country almost always covered with snow. Criminals are condemned in Russia to hunt the sable; they are obliged to furnish a stated number of skins yearly, and if the quantity is not provided, they are punished for the neglect.

The Russian soldiers, likewise, kill the sables: they are only permitted to shoot with one ball, that the skin may not be spoiled. Sometimes they use blunt arrows. To encourage the hunters, they are allowed to divide what is over, after the number required is completed, among themselves.

THE ICHNEUMON.

This animal is found in great numbers in the southern parts of Asia, and in Africa, particularly about the Cape of Good Hope. In Egypt it is domesticated, and is as serviceable as the cat, in freeing the houses from rats and mice; indeed, more so: it will likewise attack birds, lizards, serpents, &c.

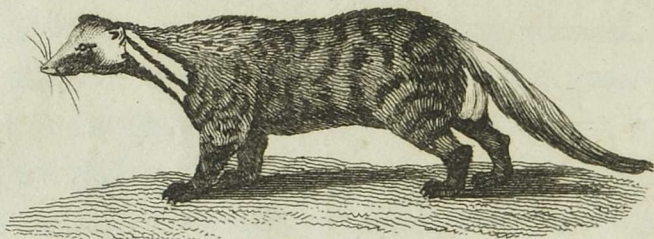
It greatly resembles the martin, except that the hair is rougher and less downy, and the colour is a grisly black. But, like all animals in a domestic state, it is subject to varieties in size as well as colour. When wild, it generally lives on the banks of rivers, and, in times of

inundation, makes to the higher ground, often approaching inhabited places in quest of prey. It is particularly serviceable to the Egyptians, in destroying vast quantities of the eggs of the crocodile; and even the young crocodiles themselves, before they reach the water. It is said that if an ichneumon finds a crocodile asleep on the shore, it will boldly enter the mouth, kill its enemy, and eat its way out again. This tale, however, appears to have more of fable than of truth in it. The Egyptians were very sensible of the great use of this little quadruped; but they were not satisfied with being grateful to it for its services, and being thankful to God for giving them an animal that prevented the increase of the crocodile, but they foolishly fancied the ichneumon was a god itself. A little, contemptible creature, which lived on vermin for a few years and then died, they imagined a god. It is hardly possible to conceive such extreme stupidity! yet history tells us this was the fact. Such strange folly is the more extraordinary, if it is recollected that the Egyptians were not a savage and barbarous people; but had a regular government, and possessed many wise laws, and were in many respects a learned and ingenious people.

It was in this country that the Almighty



Genette



Civit



Glutton

thought fit to make such an astonishing display of his power by his servant Moses, to effect the delivery of the Israelites from the cruel bondage under which they were held. When we read the history of former ages, we must often feel humiliated at the deplorable weakness, folly, and wickedness of man. How grateful should we be, that God has pitied his miserable state, and has enabled good and pious men to write the Bible for our instruction.

THE STINKARDS.

In America, several species of the weasel tribe are found, differing little from those already mentioned, except in their horrid smell. When pursued or irritated, it increases so much, that the stench is almost intolerable, and from this circumstance the sailors call them Stinkards. They are divided into the Squash, the Skunk, the Conepate, and the Zorille.

THE GENETTE.

This little animal is pleasing and beautiful in its figure, colour, and fur. In size it varies a good deal, but it is generally rather less than

the martin. It is found in Spain and in Turkey. In Constantinople it is much kept in houses, for the same purposes that the cat is kept here; and, unlike most of this tribe, has an agreeable smell, something like the perfume of the civet, but not so powerful.

THE CIVET.

The Civet is larger than any of the weasel tribe before mentioned. Its colour varies; but is usually ash, spotted with black. It has whiskers, and its eyes are black and beautiful. It has a pouch or bag under the tail, which contains the perfume that is known by the name of *civet*. Formerly, this scent was so greatly admired, and thought so useful in medicine, that it was an article of great trade. In consequence, numbers of these animals were bred by the Turks, Indians, and Dutch, for the profit they made by selling the perfume. The poor creature was kept in a little box just large enough to hold it; the civet was taken out of the pouch with a wooden spoon; and in a little time the bag filled again, when it was again emptied, and so on. At present it is seldom, if ever, given as medicine; and even as a perfume, it is gone out of fashion.

THE GLUTTON.

The Glutton is considerably larger than any of the rest of the weasel kind; yet, on the whole, it more resembles this tribe than any other. Its fur is beautiful and glossy, and much esteemed. Its body is so long, and its legs so short, that it is very slow in pursuit; indeed, all animals would be able to escape it but the beaver; and even the beaver saves itself, generally, by taking to the water. For this reason the glutton climbs a tree, and sits patiently two or three days hid among the branches, till a large animal passes underneath, when it drops down with an unerring aim, fixes its claws into the neck of the terrified creature, and begins eating into its flesh. In vain the unfortunate animal flies: no speed can shake its enemy from its seat. By rubbing itself against the trees, it may even rub bits of skin off the glutton, but it will not quit its hold. It continues feeding till its victim falls from pain and loss of blood.

As this beast, which takes its name from its voracious appetite, is often obliged to wait some time for food, it regales itself when it has the opportunity, and will eat as long as it is able. It will eat till it is unable to move or

stir a step, or till it has devoured its prey, bones and all. It prefers the deer, if it is to be had; but, like a true glutton, never refuses any thing that comes in its way.

It is found in the northern parts of Europe, in Siberia, and in North America.

The bare description of the habits of this odious creature must convince every one how disgusting gluttony is. If this propensity is so revolting to our feelings when we meet with it in a brute, how insupportable every approach to it must be in a rational being!

Most of the weasel kind are remarkable for the beauty and warmth of their furs; and most of them are inhabitants of cold climates. The colder the climate, the finer the fur. It is not easy to find a reason why cold should make the fur grow softer and thicker; but we cannot fail to be struck with the mercy of God, in this benevolent order of things, who has thus provided for the comfort of the meanest animals. Vain and silly man, proud of his superiority over the brute creation, is apt to fancy himself of vast importance, and to neglect many things as beneath his notice. The great Lord of the Universe extends his providence to all his works, and does not deem the minutest insect unworthy his care.

THE HARE KIND.

The last race of animals that was described, was fierce and voracious; on the contrary, this is a harmless and gentle kind: an enemy to none, but preyed on by all. As the one tribe is fitted for hostility, so is the other for escape: as the one subsists by courage and activity, so the other finds safety in swiftness and timidity. The hare, like all creatures that live entirely upon vegetables, is inoffensive and timorous. It has very large, prominent eyes, placed backwards in its head, so that it can almost see behind it: they are never wholly closed; but, as it is always on the watch, it sleeps with them open. The ears are remarkably large: they are moveable, and can be directed to every quarter, so that the slightest sounds are heard. The muscles are very strong; and the hinder feet are longer than the fore-feet, which enables it to run with rapidity. Almost all quadrupeds noted for speed, are formed in this manner, except the horse. This formation gives it great advantage in running up a hill, for which reason, when pursued, it generally makes to a rising ground. From this description it would seem, that this pretty, harmless creature would

be tolerably secure; but it has so many enemies, that notwithstanding all its means to fly from danger, it generally dies a violent death; yet its life is naturally short, not exceeding seven or eight years.

Dogs of all kinds pursue the hare with eagerness. The cat and weasel lie in ambush, and practise all their little arts to seize it: birds of prey are likewise dangerous enemies to it. But man is its worst foe: he destroys vast numbers to gratify his palate; for, unfortunately for the poor little animal, its flesh is considered a great delicacy. However, though we may pity the terrified creature for the pain and misery that it suffers, we must be glad that the numbers of this tribe are thinned; for they multiply so rapidly, that if it were not for this circumstance, they would shortly overrun the earth.

The young are brought forth with their eyes open. The dam suckles them for twenty days, after which they leave her, and seek food for themselves. In those tribes which feed on others, the dam leads her young about for months, to teach them to provide for their wants; but in this, which lives on vegetables, so much instruction is not necessary, as food is always at hand. They feed during the night, rather than by day, choosing the tender blades of grass, and

quenching their thirst with the dew. They live also on roots, leaves, fruits, and corn, and prefer juicy and milky plants. In winter they strip off the bark of trees: they are fond of birch, pinks, and parsley. They sleep in the day, and come out chiefly in the night to feed. They skip and gambol about by moonlight; but the slightest noise, even the falling of a leaf, disturbs their festivity, and each flies to its form. They do not burrow like rabbits, but each hare makes a form or nest, in which it displays sagacity, in choosing places where the grass most nearly resembles the colour of its fur. When pursued, it likewise tries various arts to elude its followers, by doubling, or running into holes. Sometimes it will run up a hedge, amongst furze-bushes, but generally in vain; for its scent is strong, and though at first its speed is astonishing, it cannot long continue it.

They are easily tamed if taken young, and may be taught many diverting tricks. The amiable poet Cowper gives an interesting and amusing account of three hares which he reared in the house. A lady, whose servant found a leveret, permitted her little boy to bring it up. It soon lost its fearfulness, and not only played with the child, but was quite sociable with a favourite cat and dog that were likewise inha-

bitants of the same room. It had a basket for its bed, and if it found either the cat or the dog had taken possession of its house, it made no ceremony to turn the intruder out, drumming on the head of the offender, till it was obliged to yield. It learnt to eat all manner of things, even fried fish.

Hares are found in almost all parts of the world; but differ very much in different climates. In the cold northern countries they are perfectly white. The foot of the hare is covered with fur; and it has likewise hair in the inside of the mouth.

The fur is an article of trade, and is much used in the manufactory of hats.

THE RABBIT.

The rabbit is a distinct species from the hare, notwithstanding its strong resemblance to that animal. It has not so many arts to elude the vigilance of its enemies, and yet it fares better; for it finds its safety in burrowing underground.

The rabbit is fond of sporting in sunny places and in good pastures; but the instant it is alarmed, it flies towards the warren, and if it can reach its hole, it remains secure from the fox.

and most of its enemies. Some, indeed, can follow it even there, particularly the ferret, or others of the weasel tribe.

The female makes a nest for her young, sometimes quite out of the warren, and sometimes only a little distant from the burrow. She lines it with fur she pulls off herself, and if the hole is out of the warren, carefully covers her young up when she leaves them to seek for food. The male seldom goes near them till they are five or six weeks old, when the female brings out one by one: he takes each in his paws, licks its eyes, and smooths its fur.

Rabbits are much more numerous than hares, both because they are more prolific, and because they secure themselves better from the attacks of their enemies. The flesh is not so much esteemed as the flesh of the hare, yet it is liked very generally. The fur is used in the hat manufactory, and likewise for lining to clothes, for muffs, tippets, &c.

Great quantities of these creatures are kept on purpose to be eaten; but tame rabbits are not so good as the wild.

THE SQUIRREL.

This beautiful little animal is to be found in most countries. However, the species vary in

size and colour according to the climate; nor are the manners of all exactly alike. The Brazilian Squirrel, and the little Ground Squirrel of Carolina, do not climb trees as the rest of the tribe do. The squirrel cannot accommodate itself to change of temperature, as many creatures do: if brought from a warm climate into a cold one, or from a cold climate into a warm one, it generally dies.

The common squirrel is of a reddish brown colour, with its breast and stomach white. In size it nearly approaches a rabbit; but its ears are shorter, and its tail much longer, and very bushy. Its eyes are bright and sparkling. Its tail is of great service to it, as it uses it like an umbrella, to defend itself from heat or cold: it likewise assists it in leaping from tree to tree. It is extremely active and industrious, and seldom descends from the trees, unless in storms; but it can quickly climb up again when it wishes to do so.

It builds its nest between the branches of a tree, where the trunk begins to fork off into boughs. It erects its habitation with great care, and makes its house quite weather-proof, only leaving a small hole at the top, just large enough to admit itself; and this entrance is secured from the weather, by a kind of cone

that is placed over it, and turns all the rain and wet off from it.

It lives a merry, playful life; injuring no living creature, as it subsists entirely on vegetables, and is not much exposed to the attacks of its enemies. Sometimes the martin, indeed, seizes on a squirrel's nest, and not only turns the owner out, but kills him too; this, however, is a misfortune that does not often happen. In summer and autumn it is surrounded with plenty: but it does not waste the time in idleness; for it providently lays up a store of nuts, &c. for the winter. It generally conceals its treasure in the hollows of the tree on which it lives, and never breaks into its stock, but when obliged by necessity.

How many indolent, idle people might learn a useful lesson from this pretty, little, playful animal. If the squirrel spent its whole season of enjoyment and plenty in frolicsome gambols, it must starve in the winter, when the earth no longer produces vegetables for its nourishment. If children let all their days pass in play and sport, without making a proper provision of wisdom and knowledge, they will find themselves miserably ignorant when they are men and women. When they feel the inconvenience, the shame, and the contempt

always attendant on ignorance and folly, they will bitterly regret not having paid attention to the instructions of their elders when they were young and able to learn; for in old age, even when there is a wish to acquire information, sometimes the power is lost. By habits of carelessness the memory is injured, and the understanding weakened and enfeebled.

Notwithstanding the squirrel's playful manner, it is extremely watchful; and if only the bottom of the tree where it resides is touched, it instantly jumps to another, and will continue leaping from one high tree to another, till all alarm is over. It is even said that it will leap a distance of forty feet.

In Lapland, and the extensive forests in the north, the squirrels change their habitations, and travel in vast numbers together. They have been seen in thousands: they do not suffer rocks or even water to stop them, but will cross lakes that are miles broad. Linnæus asserts, that when they come to a lake, they return to the nearest forest, and each animal provides itself with a large piece of bark to serve as a boat. When all are equipped, they set off in the voyage, and make their tails answer the use of sails. Many are lost; for though the edges of the lakes are smooth, in the

middle there are waves which overset the mariners; besides, storms often arise, which dash them about, so that numbers of the unfortunate little sailors are drowned. The Laplanders, however, consider this a lucky circumstance, for they gather them up when thrown on shore, eat the flesh, and sell the skins.

The squirrel is easily tamed, and is very diverting. It sits on its hind legs when feeding or dressing, and uses its fore feet like hands.

The FLYING SQUIRREL is less than the common squirrel. It is surprising to see it bound with one dart above a hundred yards, from one tree to another. It is assisted in these amazing leaps by the formation of the skin, which reaches from the fore feet to the hinder ones: so that when it stretches its fore legs forward, and its hind legs backward, this skin is spread out between them, somewhat like that which is between the legs of a bat. This skin is wrinkled up on its sides when it is at rest or walking; but when extended, it occasions the creature to appear like a skin floating in the air.

This little animal is more common in America than in Europe. It is usually found at the tops of trees; but is not so active as the com-

mon squirrel, and is therefore often seized by the martin and polecat.

THE MARMOT.

The Marmot is almost as big as a hare, with shorter legs and shorter ears. It has long hair, which makes the body appear thicker than it really is. The colours are gray and black. It usually sits upon its hinder legs to feed, like the squirrel, carrying its food to its mouth with its fore feet. It is chiefly a native of the Alps, and when taken young is easily tamed. It is quickly taught to wield a cudgel, dance, and play other tricks at the command of its master. It dislikes dogs; but is generally inoffensive and harmless to all animals, unless provoked. It is apt to gnaw the furniture, and even to make holes through wooden partitions. It runs up hill swifter than down; and climbs trees and walls, &c. with great facility.

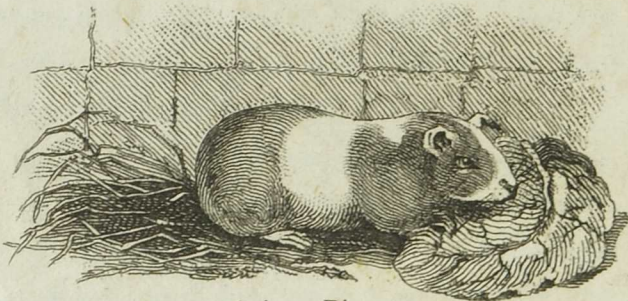
The marmot will eat flesh, bread, fruit, herbs, insects, in short, almost any thing; but is particularly fond of milk and butter. It will steal into the dairy, and lap up the milk like a cat, purring all the while as that animal does. There is one very singular circumstance in the history of this quadruped, which is, that



Marmot



Agouti



Guinea Pig

though a native of the highest mountains, which are never free from snow, it is very sensible of the cold, and sleeps during the winter. About the end of September it prepares to fit up its habitation for the winter, and is never seen to venture out before April. This animal's retreat is made with great care and art. It is a hole on a side of the mountain, extremely deep, with a spacious apartment at the bottom. In this, several marmots live together without inconvenience.

The feet and claws of this creature are made for digging; they burrow like a rabbit, and throw the earth that they have loosened behind them. As the hole is on the declivity of a mountain, no part is level but the room at the bottom: one opening slopes downward, and serves as a drain to the whole family; the other slopes upward, and is the entrance to their abode. The apartment is warmly furnished with moss and hay, of which they collect a quantity during the summer. As this is a work of labour, they join together: some cut the finest grass, some gather it, and others take it by turns to drag it to their hole. It is said, that on these occasions one lies on its back, has the hay heaped up between its paws, and then suffers itself to be dragged by the tail, with its load,

to the hole. It is certain they live together sociably, and work in common, to render their habitation snug and comfortable. This is very wise, as they pass three parts of their lives in it. They retire there in high storms, in rain, or when alarmed by any danger. They never stir out but in fine weather, and seldom venture far from home. When they go abroad, one is placed as a sentinel on a rock, whilst the rest amuse themselves in the fields, or cut grass for the winter. As soon as a dog, a bird of prey, or any enemy approaches, the watchful sentinel gives notice by a kind of whistle, upon which all get home as quickly as possible.

The hay is not for food, but only for warmth, and for the benefit of their young: as they sleep all the time, food would be of no use. When they feel the beginning of winter, they close up the two entrances into their dwelling so firmly, that it is easier to dig up any other part of the ground, than where they have closed it. At the time they begin to sleep, they are very fat, but at the end of the winter they are very lean. If their retreat is opened, the whole family is discovered, each rolled into a ball, and covered up with hay. In this state they seem lifeless, and may be carried away, nay, even killed, without their betraying signs of

much pain. Those people who find them, take them and bring up the young, and eat the old ones. A gradual and gentle warmth revives them; but they die if put suddenly near the fire, or into a great heat.

They live about nine or ten years. The species is not numerous, nor is it found in many places besides the Alps. The inhabitants of the country, when they observe the hole, generally stay till winter before they open it: if they began too early, the animals would wake, and bury themselves still deeper underground. Those who kill them for food, do all they can to improve the flesh, which has an unpleasant taste, and often occasions sickness. The fat is taken away, and the lean is salted and dried something like bacon.

THE AGOUTI.

This animal is found in great abundance in the southern parts of America, and is peculiar to that continent. It is about the size of a rabbit, which it resembles in many respects; but its hair is not soft and downy like the rabbit's, but hard and bristly, like a sucking pig's, and of a reddish brown colour. It likewise resem-

bles the hog in its voracious appetite, and will eat any thing that falls in its way; but when satisfied it hides the remainder, like a dog or fox. When irritated, its hair stands erect on the back. It does not dig a hole in the ground, but burrows in the hollows of trees. It uses its fore paws to carry its food to its mouth. It runs swiftly upon even ground or up hill, but is in danger of falling if it runs down a declivity. The flesh, when fat and well fed, is tolerable food. The agouti is hunted by dogs, but if it gains its hole, it cannot be forced out, except by filling its retreat with smoke. When half suffocated it comes out, and tries to escape by its speed: when incapable of getting away, it turns upon the hunters, and defends itself as well as it can. If taken young it may be tamed, and will play about the house inoffensively.

THE CAPA.

This animal is likewise a native of South America. It is prettier than the agouti, from being spotted with ash-coloured spots on an amber-coloured ground. In other things, it does not differ much from it. It grunts like a pig, and does not use its paws like the squirrel, but

hunts for its food on the ground. It is eaten, skin and all, like a young pig, and is considered a great delicacy.

THE GUINEA-PIG.

The Guinea-pig was originally brought from warm climates, but is now found in almost all countries. At present it is only known in a domestic state. Its colour varies. In shape and size it nearly resembles the rabbit, but is less; and its neck is so short, that its head appears stuck on to its body. It requires to be carefully defended from cold and every enemy, for it is too cowardly to attempt its own defence. Even the female will see her young destroyed without an effort to protect them; but notwithstanding their timidity and stupidity in this respect, they fight furiously amongst themselves. All their care appears to be to keep their coats clean, smooth, and bright. They pay their young great attention in this way, biting them if they are not tractable.

The guinea-pig is a very uninteresting animal: it is not useful to man, nor are its habits and dispositions amiable and amusing. If, however, we pretend to take any of the species

under our protection, let us not be so inhuman as to allow the poor beasts to suffer from negligence or want of care: we are not to suppose that in their wild state they are so helpless and stupid. God has given all other creatures either strength to defend themselves, speed to fly from danger, or art to elude the snares of an enemy. Doubtless he endued the guinea-pig with equal advantages: it is only its dependence on man, that has altered its natural manners. We have seen a similar effect produced by the same cause, in the sheep.

ANIMALS OF THE RAT KIND.

At first view it is natural to suppose, that the larger animals must be more injurious to man than the smaller kinds. If the size and strength of an elephant and a tiger were compared with those of a rat, we should be tempted to laugh at the assertion, that the latter is more to be dreaded than either of the two former. But when we consider how scarce the larger beasts of prey are, that they frequent places chiefly uninhabited by man, and that their size precludes the idea of concealment, so that it is easy to hunt and destroy them with fire-arms and dogs, we shall be convinced, that the human race do not suffer

much inconvenience from them: whereas, the immense numbers of rats render it impossible ever to get rid of them, when they have got possession of a country. Their rapacious appetite leads them to attack every kind of provision, and the smallness of their bodies makes it very difficult to follow them into their holes.

There are several kinds of rats: the most mischievous is the Great Rat. It is about eleven inches long; its eyes are large and black; the colour of the head and upper part of the body of a light brown, mixed with tawny and ash-colour; the nose and throat of a dirty white. Some years ago this species was hardly known here, but they increase so rapidly, that they now spread over every part of the country, and do great mischief amongst rabbits, game, poultry, corn, &c. for they even kill or spoil much more than they eat. They swim well, and with ease, and make great havoc in a fish-pond.

This tribe would probably be so numerous as to overrun the earth, did not rats prey on each other, as well as on other small animals. However, they are not without enemies: the weasel is a very formidable one, for the weasel can follow them into their retreats, and sticks so close, sucking the blood, that it generally is

the conqueror. Dogs always attack them, but never touch the flesh. Cats, likewise, often hunt and destroy them, but will not eat them unless pressed by hunger.

There is another species, called the Black Rat, which is very similar, only smaller. It was very common formerly, but since the great rat has been in the country, it is rarely seen; for the other kind being the strongest, has nearly destroyed the whole tribe. In America it is found in great numbers.

Rats infest ships very much, and do great mischief to the timbers. It is thought that the great rat was brought to England and Ireland in vessels which came from the Levant. A singular circumstance is asserted about the sagacity of these animals, which is, that when a ship is so old as to be in danger of falling to pieces, they quit it.

The Black Water Rat never frequents houses; but is usually found on the banks of rivers, ditches, ponds, &c. All the rat tribe are so injurious to man, that he takes many means to destroy them, by traps, ferrets, and poison. The latter, however, should be used very carefully; for there are some shocking stories told of children eating food which was poisoned and set for rats, and dying in consequence.

THE CRICETUS.

The Cricetus, or German Rat, resembles the water-rat in size, small eyes, and the shortness of the tail. But it differs from other rats, in having two pouches, one on each side of its jaw, under the skin, into which it can cram a large quantity of provisions. When filled they are about the size of a large walnut. They open into the mouth, and fall back along the neck to the shoulder. When its hunger is satisfied, it fills these bags with corn, wheat, &c. and carries its load home to its hole, as a store against winter. Its extreme voraciousness makes it a terrible pest to the countries where it is found. Though very destructive to grain, &c. we cannot but admire the industry and cleverness of this animal. Its habitation is made with great art: it consists of several apartments, one for a dwelling-place, lined and fitted up with hay, straw, &c. the others for store-houses. As each of these is filled with provision, it is neatly closed up against the season of scarcity. Many German peasants seek and discover the retreats of this provident creature, for in fruitful years it is not unusual to find two bushels of good grain in each apartment. The fur is likewise considered valuable.

THE LEMING.

The Leming, which is a native of Scandinavia, is often seen to pour down the northern mountains in immense numbers, and to destroy all the productions of the earth. It is larger than the dormouse, with a short, bushy tail. Part of the head, as well as the neck and shoulders, are black; but the rest of the body is reddish, with small black spots of different shapes. The eyes are little and black, the ears round, the fore legs short, the hind legs longer, which formation gives it a great degree of swiftness.

All rats are most numerous in wet seasons; but at such times this species is so abundant, that the poor, ignorant Laplanders fancy they come from the clouds. After long rain, these animals descend from the mountains in millions, and cover the whole plain with their numbers. They generally move forward in the form of a square during the night, and rest by day, covering the ground for more than a mile broad, and so close together, that they touch each other. It is in vain that the inhabitants attempt to stop them; no obstacle can turn them from their journey, and their numbers are so great, that

to kill them is out of the question. They always travel from the north-west to the south-east: if they meet a river or lake, they swim over; if they encounter a well, they boldly leap down, and climb up the opposite side; if a boat happens to be in the way, in a river or lake, they never swim round it, but go straight forward over it; if they meet a stack of hay or corn, they gnaw their way through it; if a house obstructs their progress, they will endeavour to pass through it, but stay and die there if they cannot force a passage: some then return back, or go out of their route.

They live chiefly on vegetables, and in a very short time destroy a meadow, and make it look as if it had been burnt and strewed with ashes. If any man is so silly as to attack one of them, the little creature boldly flies at him, and barking something like a puppy, fastens on its enemy, and is not easily made to quit its hold.

Their numbers would soon render the countries which they overrun uninhabitable, did they not at last destroy each other; but when, from their devastations, vegetable food becomes scarce, they divide into two armies, and fight furiously. They soon after disappear, and it

is not exactly known what becomes of them. Many are killed by each other, it is supposed; certainly many are found lying dead. Their carcasses infect the air for miles round, and often occasion malignant diseases. They seem even to poison the vegetables they have gnawed, for animals have been known to die that have fed afterwards in the places where they have been. During their march some have been observed to carry their young ones with them; one in the mouth, another at the same time on the back.

The Swedes and Norwegians, who live by husbandry, consider a visit from these vermin a terrible evil; but the Laplanders, on the contrary, are pleased when they see an army of Lemings descending amongst them. They feed greedily on the flesh, though so bad that dogs and cats detest it. Besides, they always expect a quantity of game the next year. These poor, unfortunate people, who are distressingly ignorant, fancy that the combats of these animals prognosticate wars, and pretend to foretel the event by the circumstances that attend the battles of the leming. This extreme folly cannot excite surprise, when we find those who have had the advantages of living amongst reasonable people, equally silly. There are



Rat



Lemming



Mouse

persons in the world who are so absurd, as to fancy some days are lucky, and some unlucky; and to imagine future events may be foretold by various signs. But who that has common sense, can suppose that a cow, an owl, a raven, a dog, or any thing else, can know what is going to happen, better than we know ourselves. No one can know the future but God, and if he thought proper to inform us of any event that was going to befall us, we may be sure he would acquaint us without the aid of a screech-owl, a croaking raven, or a foolish fortune-teller, who always tells a hundred lies for one word of truth.

THE MOUSE.

This pretty, little, active animal would doubtless be greatly admired, if the mischief it does did not make it the enemy of man. It is considerably smaller than the rat, yet resembles it extremely in its shape and disposition: that it is not so mischievous, only arises from its want of power. It inhabits houses, and though naturally very timid, is compelled to creep out of its hole, and to venture into pantries, larders, &c. in search of food. It has many enemies, as it not only attacks all provisions which it can

get at, that are intended for the use of a family, but is very injurious to the farmer, and is generally found in great numbers in farm-yards, and wherever there is corn. The owl, the cat, the snake, the hawk, the weasel, and the rat, all prey on it; and its only security is, its caution, and the smallness of its hole, which precludes the entrance of its enemies, which are larger than itself.

The Long-tailed Field Mouse, and the Short-tailed Field Mouse, are both rather larger than the common mouse; but differ little from it, except that they live always in meadows and gardens, and never come into houses.

The SHREW differs from the mouse in the shape of its nose, which is very long and slender. It is a harmless animal; for, as it lives on insects more than on corn, it is esteemed rather a friend to the gardener than an enemy.

THE DORMOUSE.

There are three kinds of dormice, chiefly differing from each other in size; the largest being nearly as big as a rat, and the smallest not bigger than a mouse. Like the marmot, it sleeps during the winter. It forms its nest in

the hollow of a tree. Before the winter begins, it collects a little store of provisions, which it lays by carefully. As soon as it feels the cold weather, it rolls itself up into a ball; but, as a sunny day, or a change to milder weather, will revive it for a short time, it has food at hand, without going in search of it. In this manner it usually passes five months of the year.

THE MOLE.

Rats sometimes live underground: the Mole always. It is bigger than a mouse, with a coat of fine, short, glossy, black hair. Its nose resembles that of a hog, but is longer in proportion. Its eyes are so small, that they can hardly be seen. Instead of ears it has holes. The fore legs are short and strong, with five claws.

No creature shows more evidently than the mole, the care of God to render every animal fit for its situation. As the mole was to live underground, eyes would be useless and only in the way; accordingly, we find that its eyes are so small, that for many ages it was supposed to be entirely blind. It is now discovered, however, by the help of the microscope, that it has eyes. Its fore feet are admirably formed for digging, and enable it to burrow so rapidly

into the ground, that if a mole is turned out into a field, it sinks underground in a moment. It lives chiefly on worms and insects, and seldom comes aboveground, except in pursuit of its prey, but it instantly sinks again. It has but few enemies besides man, and those few it can easily escape from, as its hearing is acute, and it makes its way so rapidly. The farmer is injured by it, and does his best to get rid of it. In making its retreat for its young, it throws the earth up into the little hillocks which are called mole-hills. It generally dwells in low grounds, and suffers most in inundations, when it is seen endeavouring to reach the higher grounds; but often without success, for great numbers are drowned.

THE HEDGEHOG KIND.

The Hedgehog is perfectly harmless, though its appearance is very formidable. It does not seem to have the wish to offend other animals, and certainly has not the power. All its desire appears to be to defend itself from the attacks of its enemies, and in this it is generally successful. There are two kinds: one with a nose like the snout of a hog; the other with a nose more like a dog's, short and blunt. This last is



Shrew



Dormouse



Mole

the most common. It is about six inches in length; the tail not more than an inch long, and so hid by the spines, that it is hardly seen: the head, back, and sides, are covered with prickles; the nose, breast, and stomach, with fine soft hair: the legs are short; the toes five on each foot, long and separated: the prickles are about an inch long, and very sharp pointed; the top and bottom of each are white, and the middle part black: the eyes are small, and high in the head: the ears are round: the mouth small, but well furnished with teeth, which it uses only in chewing its food; never in attacking others, or in defending itself. Its only dependance in danger, is on its spines. As soon as it perceives the approach of an enemy, it rolls itself up into a ball, drawing in its legs, and tucking its skin so tightly round them, that no part is left out, but those that are armed with prickles. The cat, the weasel, the ferret, and the martin, soon quit it; but the dog is more persevering, without, however, any success, for the more the hedgehog is pulled or rolled about, the tighter it keeps itself. When, at last, the patience of its enemy is exhausted, and it is left alone, it peeps out, unrolls itself, and creeps slowly to its hole. It mostly sleeps by day, and ventures out by night.

It lives in small thickets, hedges, ditches, &c. where it makes a hole about six or eight feet deep, and lines it well with moss, grass, or leaves. Its food is roots, fruits, and insects. It has been accused of sucking cows, and of carrying off great quantities of fruit sticking to its prickles, out of orchards and gardens; but there is no foundation for either assertion. On the contrary, it is rather serviceable, in ridding the fields of worms and other insects. It sleeps during the winter, and therefore does not lay up any provision for that season. Its skin is of little use; but sometimes calves are muzzled with it, to prevent their sucking.

THE TANREC AND TENDRAC.

Both these animals are of the hedgehog kind, but much smaller, and have not the power of rolling themselves up into a ball. They are found in the East Indies.

The Tanrec is about the size of a mole; the Tendrac still less. They grunt like a hog, and wallow like it in the mire. They love to be near water, and spend more time in it, than upon land. They are very numerous in creeks of salt water. They make themselves holes in the ground, and sleep several months. During



Hedge Hog



Porcupine

their torpid state their hair and prickles fall off, and are renewed when they revive. They are very fat, and though their flesh is insipid, the Indians are fond of it.

THE PORCUPINE.

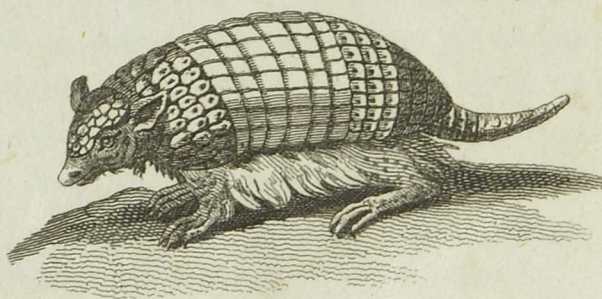
The Porcupine is about two feet long, and fifteen inches high. It is covered with quills, from ten to fourteen inches long. Each quill is thickest in the middle, and grows out of the skin in the same manner as the feathers of a bird do. The biggest are often fifteen inches long, and a quarter of an inch in diameter, extremely sharp at the end. They are of different colours, being white and black alternately. They are harder than common quills. Amongst these quills another kind is mixed here and there, which are long, slender, and flexible. Those near the tail are white, transparent, and hollow, with a hole at the extremity. These are said to be of use to the animal, in enabling it to bring water to its young; as it can bend them, so as to fill them with water, which it can thus carry to its nest. All the quills incline backward, like the bristles of a hog; but when irritated it erects them, and makes them stand upright.

The legs are short. All the body, except the ears and soles of the feet, is covered with short hair, like bristles. In disposition it resembles the hedgehog, never attacking, but only defending itself. Formerly, it was thought to have the power of shooting out its quills at its enemies: this is not believed at present; but it is doubtful whether it does not moult them, as birds do their feathers. If the porcupine is pursued by a dog or wolf, it climbs a tree, where it continues secure; otherwise, it defends itself by lying on its sides, and presenting its sharp quills to its antagonist, so that it cannot be seized without inflicting dreadful wounds. These quills are so formidable, that even the lion will leave it unmolested, rather than suffer from them. There seems to be something poisonous in them, for those who have been wounded by them, have been in danger of losing the injured limb, and have been laid up for months. The female is very fierce in defence of her young, but otherwise inoffensive when not attacked.

This animal has, however, a great dislike to serpents, which it always attacks, kills, and devours. Those of the species that have been brought to this country as curiosities, would eat vegetables and flesh, if given them. Poets have called it the *fretful porcupine*, from its



Pangolin



Armadillo

extreme irritability; for it will not, when caught, allow its cage to be touched or approached, without betraying signs of anger and resentment.

The Indians hunt it for the sake of its flesh, which they like; but still more for its quills, which they dye of various colours, split into pieces, and use to embroider boxes, belts, and baskets, in an ingenious manner.

THE PANGOLIN.

It is so common to see quadrupeds covered with hair, that at first we are tempted to suppose that they must all be so. This, however, would be a wrong conclusion: the Pangolin, for instance, is covered with scales instead of hair. It is a native of the hottest climates. It is about three or four feet long; and its tail is nearly the same length. It has a small head, very long nose, a short neck, long body, and very short legs. It has no teeth. It is defended by its scales in all parts, except under the shoulders, breast, and the inside of the legs, which are all covered with a soft, smooth skin without hair. Between the scales are seen hairs like bristles. The scales are of different sizes; the largest nearest the tail: they lap over each

other, something like a coat of mail, and are so hard, that they will even turn a musket-ball. Thus defended, it fears no enemy but man; for the moment it is alarmed it rolls itself up like the hedgehog, and wraps its long tail round to keep all tight; and as it has the power of erecting its scales a little, it presents their sharp edges on every side. Even the tiger, the panther, and the hyæna, cannot molest it, but often suffer from their vain attempts, as the scales inflict deep wounds. The fox sometimes presses the hedgehog so forcibly, that the poor creature is compelled to put out its nose, which he instantly seizes; but the formation of the scales of the pangolin, enable it to bear nearly any weight.

The negroes, when they find it, beat it to death; they are induced to do this cruel act, only for the sake of its flesh, as it is perfectly harmless. Indeed, it would be wise in the inhabitants of the country to protect it; for it destroys vast numbers of ants, which are extremely injurious to the people, and do almost incredible mischief. The poor negroes, however, are not the only persons who are so silly as to forego a great future benefit, for the sake of an immediate enjoyment. How many children neglect the advantages of instruction, for

the short-lived amusement of playing and romping about. If they would reflect a few moments, they would willingly give up a little play whilst young, that they might acquire useful knowledge, which would be of service to them all their lives.

To return to the pangolin: it catches its prey by its tongue, which is so long, that, when in the mouth, it is doubled; when stretched out it reaches a quarter of a yard beyond the tip of the nose. This tongue is round, very red, and covered with a slimy liquor, which makes it very shining. When it approaches an ant-hill, it lies down near it, concealing itself as much as possible, stretching out its tongue, which it keeps quite still and quiet. The ants, attracted by its appearance, gather on it in great numbers, when it suddenly draws it in, and swallows all at once. This mode of proceeding is repeated several times, till it is satisfied, or till the ants have learnt not to venture near their devourer.

The pangolin lives chiefly in the thickest parts of forests, and digs itself a retreat amidst the clefts of rocks, where it rears its young, so that it is rarely met with.

THE ARMADILLO.

The Armadillo is a native of America only. There are several species, which differ chiefly in size; some being a foot long, some three. This animal is more defenceless than the pangolin: it is covered with a shell, which is composed of many pieces, like a lobster's tail. It does not, therefore, in the least annoy its enemies, though it generally eludes their attacks by rolling itself up into a ball, and waiting patiently till the danger is over. When the Indians find it in this state, they take it home, and placing the poor wretch near a strong fire, the heat soon obliges it to unroll. The flesh is esteemed a dainty; therefore, it is frequently hunted, and a race of small dogs is trained for the purpose. It sometimes escapes by burrowing in the ground; for it can sink under the earth as quickly as the mole does. When it attempts this, the hunters try to catch it by the tail, and one holds it, whilst the rest dig it out: it has, however, been known to exert such strength, as to leave its tail behind it in the man's hand. It, likewise, when nearly taken, if on the edge of a precipice, will roll itself up, and drop down unhurt to the bottom. It lives

Bat.



Otter.



Beaver.



chiefly on insects and fruits, and is quite inoffensive, except when it gets into gardens, and devours the melons, &c.

THE BAT.

Formerly, it was doubted whether it was most proper to class the bat amongst birds or beasts; but it resembles quadrupeds in so many particulars, that it has been long decided to consider it as one. The only circumstance that gave rise to this uncertainty, was the power which this little animal possesses, of suspending itself in the air. We have, however, seen that the flying squirrel can do the same.

The bat most common in England is about the size of a mouse. It has a thin skin fastened to its fore-legs, which folds up somewhat like a fan when the animal walks. When the legs are stretched out, the skin is spread out, having the appearance of wings, and serving for the same uses. The first toe of each of the fore-legs is not joined on to this skin like the other four, but is loose, and serves as a heel when the bat walks; and enables it to stick itself up against the side of walls or houses, as it is furnished with a long hook. This skin is of a dusky colour. The body is covered with short fur,

of a mouse-colour: the eyes are small, the ears like those of a mouse. It principally frequents the sides of woods and shady walks, and is often seen to skim along the surface of pieces of water. It feeds upon moths, gnats, and such insects as fly in the evening; for it never ventures out till the dusk. It only continues in the air a short time: an hour is sufficient to fatigue it, when it seeks its retreat, which is generally a hole in some ruined building, or hollow tree. It not only remains there all the day, but even great part of the night, and it sleeps during winter; so that its life must be considered very short, as it is for the most part asleep, or in a state of torpor. It suspends itself on the sides of caves in the beginning of winter, where a continued cold damp prevails, till the summer is thoroughly set in. Those of the species which neglect to do this, suffer for their want of care. The first fine day revives them: they go in search of insects which are not to be found in that season, and starve from want of food, or, from their feebleness, fall an easy prey to the owl, the rat, or other enemies.

The bat suckles her young ones; but is at no trouble to provide them a nest. She sticks herself against the side of her hole, and allows the young ones to cling to her for the first day

every kind, instead of placing us in a civilized country, where all our wants may be supplied, and where we are protected by proper laws, to defend both our persons and property. May no one who enjoys these blessings, ever forget the Merciful Being who bestowed them; but may he ever remember, that every good and every perfect gift comes from God.

THE OTTER.

This animal is amphibious: that is, capable of living in the water as well as on land. The Otter is usually about two feet long. In shape it is something like the weasel; long, slender, and soft-skinned. The head and nose are broad and flat. The mouth has a resemblance to the mouth of a fish. The eyes are very small; the legs very short, but remarkably strong, broad, and muscular. The joints are so loosely set, that it can turn them quite back, and bring them in a line with the body, to perform the office of fins. Each foot has five toes, connected by a strong skin, like what is seen in the feet of web-footed fowls. This formation enables it to swim most rapidly; which power is of great service to it, as it feeds chiefly on fish.

It is found in rivers and lakes; but mostly in the latter. Where it is in rivers, it swims against the stream, and meets the fish instead of pursuing them.

Otters reside in holes on the banks of lakes, which they partly hollow for themselves. They do not, however, display much art in forming their habitations, though they make two entrances to their retreat, at the distance of several yards from each other, and by this means often escape from the hunters. When pursued they always try to gain the water. When old they are so untractable, that they are generally shot, as taking them alive would be of no use. But dogs are trained to hunt them, and if the young ones are found without the dam, they are easily taken. If she is with them, she plunges into the water, and the young ones follow her example; but they never venture to do this alone.

The young otter is reared with care, and by patience is taught to fish, and bring his prey to his master. The mode of teaching is, first to make him learn to fetch and carry a leathern figure in the shape of a fish, and drop it at the word of command. When he knows this lesson, a dead fish is given him; and last of all, he is allowed to go into the water to catch the

live fish. It is incredible the quantity an otter in the wild state will destroy—much more than it can devour. The banks of a lake where otters live are quite offensive, from the numbers of dead fish. Besides, the nets of the fishermen are shockingly torn by this animal; for the instant he feels entangled in them, he gnaws them to pieces with his sharp teeth.

Otters are found in almost all parts of the world. The various species differ little from each other.

THE BEAVER.

There is no appearance of extraordinary sagacity in the Beaver when it is caught: on the contrary, it is only a mild, gentle creature, and is surpassed by many others both in cunning and industry; yet the natural history of this animal when left at liberty, is very surprising and interesting. It is the only quadruped that has a flat, broad tail, covered with scales. Its hind feet are webbed; but not the fore-feet, which it uses like hands. It is about two feet long, and one high. In figure it is not dissimilar to the rat. Its colour is light brown: the hair of two sorts; the one long and coarse, the other fine, short, soft, and furry.

About June and July the beavers begin to assemble on the banks of some river or lake, where they design to erect their building. They collect in companies of two or three hundred. If it is a lake, where the water is always level, they begin at once their habitations; but if it is a river, they build a dam or pier, which crosses the river, so as to form a dead water. They fix on a tree that grows near, which they quickly fell with their sharp teeth, and always take care to make it fall in a proper direction, to be the foundation of their work. They cut branches of trees, four or five feet long, which they drive into the bed of the river for stakes, at regular distances, and fill up the intervals with smaller pieces; then, to make it water-proof, they fetch clay, which they plaster over the whole, and which answers the purpose of mortar. It is curious to see these industrious animals swimming with the stakes in their mouths. When the wall, which at bottom is generally ten or twelve feet thick, and in length often reaches a hundred, is finished, they erect their houses: these consist of three stories, one above another; the undermost beneath the water, the two others above it; so, when the water rises from floods or rains, they inhabit the uppermost tiers. Each story has a separate entrance. The number

and size of the apartments vary according to the number of inhabitants; however, they all live together very sociably. The building is completed by August or September, when they lay in their winter stock of provisions. Though during the summer they feed on fruits and vegetables, they content themselves with wood and leaves for the winter; taking care that the wood should be soaked some time in the water before they eat it. If the hunters destroy any part of their building, they repair the injuries with great exactness. If, however, this misfortune often happens, they forsake the place and go elsewhere. They have been known to place their dwellings on land, but always in situations where they could have a communication with the water. They prefer young wood to old: the hunters take advantage of this circumstance, to plant trees near their places of resort, and when they come to fetch the wood, take them in nets, or hunt them with dogs. The beaver, when pursued, trusts to its speed as long as it can; but when desperate, will make a stout resistance. If unmolested, the young ones remain three years with the old ones: sometimes they continue to live with them, if there are apartments enough.

Some beavers make a new building every

year; some only repair the damages the former has sustained.

They are natives of North America.

They are hunted for the skin and hair, as well as for a substance called *castor*, which is valuable as a medicine, and which is contained in a little bag the beaver is furnished with.

The hair is used in the manufacture of hats.

THE SEAL.

The Seal resembles both a quadruped and a fish. The head is round; the teeth like those of a dog; the eyes large and sparkling: it has no external ears, but holes which serve the same purpose. The body is thickest where the neck joins it, and then tapers down to the tail, which is like that of a fish. It is covered with bristly hair, which looks as if it had been rubbed over with oil. The legs are so short, that they appear like fins. The dimensions of this animal differ; some being four feet long, some nine. The colour, likewise, varies; some are black, some white, many yellow, and some spotted. The tongue is slit or forked at the end.

The water is the seal's usual habitation, and fish its food. It is able to remain some minutes under water, but not entirely; for a seal may

Seal.



Morse.

be drowned like a terrestrial animal. The legs are badly formed for walking; it therefore seldom ventures far from the shore. However, it can move along on land, though awkwardly; yet quickly enough to make it difficult for a man to overtake it before it reaches the sea. It generally basks on rocks, and if disturbed, plunges at once into the water.

Seals are gregarious: that is, herd together in vast numbers. They frequent the north seas chiefly, where they are not likely to be disturbed, and where fish abound. They are not, however, stationary; but migrate from one coast to another, either in search of food, or from some other cause. They leave the coasts of Greenland in July, and return in September; go again in March, and come back in June.

The young seals appear to know the voice of the old one, and she teaches them to swim, catch fish, and avoid danger. During storms and tempests they come on shore, and do so too while they sleep. Each seal seems to keep to its own rock. Their sleep is so sound, that the hunters often kill them at such times. The skin is valuable for many purposes, as it makes good leather.

The seal yields, too, a quantity of oil, which

fetches a good price. Formerly, the flesh was esteemed; and, in the reign of Edward the Fourth, mention is made of a feast where seals and porpoises were provided. Now, none but those pressed by hunger would think of tasting it.

The SEA LION is a species of seal. It has a large mane, which covers the head and neck, and has occasioned it to be compared to the lion. It is much larger than the seal, being found from eleven to eighteen feet long. It has an immense quantity of fat and oil. It differs from the common species, in eating vegetables, and is seen at times grazing along the shore.

The MORSE is very similar to the common seal, except that it has two large tusks, which grow downwards. The ivory of the teeth is highly valued, being even harder and whiter than the ivory of the elephant.

It is strange, that notwithstanding the number of beautiful and curious animals which there are, people have not been satisfied with admiring the wonders of God's works, but have

amused themselves with accounts of creatures which never existed. Amongst fictitious animals is the Mermaid. A great deal of nonsense has been told about this monster, which is said to have the head, face, neck, and arms, like those of a woman, and the tail of a fish; to have fine, long, flowing hair, which it is always combing and setting to rights at a looking-glass. Few people are silly enough to believe all this history; but many have been tempted to give credit to a part. Some years ago there was an account of a fish that a gentleman and two ladies saw near the coast of Scotland, which they described as resembling a mermaid. If there was any truth in the tale, it was probably a seal which these people saw. Seals are often thought, at a distance, to bear a slight resemblance to the human figure. The head is round, the face flat, and sometimes the cheeks are reddish; and the short fins may easily be considered like hands. Every one must remember that objects often appear very different at a distance, from what they do when closely examined; therefore, we should never be too sure of not being mistaken. Besides, there are men so foolish, as to like to surprise and astonish others; and who are so glad to have a marvellous story to tell, that they do not wish to be unde-

ceived: nay, even are sometimes so wicked, as to tell things which they know are not true, merely to entertain their hearers, and for the pleasure of being thought very clever. A little time will expose the cheat, and they will be despised, as they deserve to be; and then, as it is generally the case with liars, may not be believed even when they speak truth.

When any strange and unaccountable tale is related to us, we ought to reflect whether it is possible for it to have happened; and whether it is consistent with the goodness of God, to have allowed it. If we find that there is an absolute impossibility in the thing itself, or that it contradicts the goodness and providence of God, it would be absurd to credit it. Yet, at the same time, we must not expect to understand every subject. Children must often believe what their parents and friends tell them, before they are old or wise enough to know and judge for themselves.

THE MONKEY KIND.

All the Monkey tribe resemble the human figure in some respects, particularly the Ourang-Outang, which is so like a man, that it is

sometimes called the Wild Man of the Woods. This species is found in many parts of the world, and they differ in size and colour from each other. Some are seven feet high, while some are only three. The whole body is covered with hair, especially the head and back. When wild, it usually walks on all fours, but not always. It is extremely active, and it lives chiefly on vegetables. Some which inhabit the deserts of Africa, are said to be very fierce; but most of those which have been caught, have been easily tamed, and taught various tricks. It is so fond of imitating every action which it sees, that it quickly learns to sit at table, eat with a knife and fork, drink out of a glass, wipe its mouth, pick its teeth, dress itself in clothes, go to bed, lay its head on a pillow, and cover itself up with the bed-clothes. Yet it does not appear to possess as much sense as some other animals do; for it will imitate any thing, whether injurious to itself or not. It does not, in its wild state, display so much sagacity as the beaver, though it will erect a small hut to screen itself from the heat or wet.

A gentleman was on board a ship where there was one of these creatures: it was mild and gentle to all the passengers and sailors. After some time, it expressed great dislike to one

of the boys; and one day, when it had broken its chain, it flew upon him, and he, to save himself, rushed into the gentleman's cabin. The beast was so enraged, that it was feared the lad would be killed before he could be rescued from its power. At last it was safely chained again. The boy was closely questioned, to discover whether he had done any thing to torment the ourang-outang; and at last confessed he had seized the poor brute one day, and driven a large pin into his paw. No wonder, therefore, it was enraged against him. The animal felt the agony, remembered who was the cause, and knew not that it was right to forgive injuries. How wicked the boy was, to inflict such pain on a dumb creature!

The gentleman drew the pin out, and dressed the wound every day till it was well. This kindness attached the grateful animal to him ever after. It became so tame, that it was allowed to go about unchained. It even was reconciled to its cruel tormentor, by the boy being always sent with its food.

THE BABOON.

The Baboon has still less resemblance to the human figure, though it certainly retains a

Ape.



Baboon.



Monkey.



slight likeness in its fore-paws, which are formed like hands.

The baboon is from three to four feet high: the body and limbs thick; the teeth much larger than in man, and more like those of the dog; the tail thick and crooked. On each side of the cheeks is a pouch, which is filled with food when the animal has satisfied its hunger. These pouches serve as storehouses; for the provision that is laid up in them, can be squeezed out into the mouth when wanted. The hair is long and thick, of a reddish brown colour, and nearly covers the whole of the body. The hands as well as the feet are armed with long, sharp claws, instead of nails, which the ape kind has. It generally walks on all fours.

These creatures are extremely fond of fruit, and go in companies to rob gardens and orchards. Some of the party enter the enclosure, while the rest continue on the outside of the wall or hedge, in a long line which reaches from the garden to the place where the plunder is to be deposited. This is mostly a safe retreat, in a rocky, craggy mountain. One is placed as a sentinel. Those which enter the garden or orchard, gather the fruit as quickly as possible, and hand it to the nearest, which immediately throws it to the next; and so on, all along the

line, till it arrives at the end, when it is safely lodged in the common storehouse. Should any enemy approach to disturb their operations, the sentinel gives the alarm, and the whole group fly rapidly. Each, however, carries off something, which is not dropped, unless the danger of being overtaken is very great.

Baboons inhabit many woods and forests in various parts of the world. About the Cape of Good Hope there are vast numbers, and the inhabitants often catch them when young, feed them among goats and sheep, and teach them to guard their houses: this duty they perform very well, but are very mischievous in breaking furniture, &c.

MONKEYS.

There are several different kinds of monkeys. Almost every forest in the tropical climates, is inhabited by a peculiar race. They are all smaller than the baboon, though not all exactly of the same size. Some are about the size of a cat, some larger, and some not bigger than a squirrel. Their colours, likewise, vary; some being a reddish brown, which is the most common tint, and some of different shades and hues: one species is of a bright green. In

habits and dispositions they are nearly alike. They are very nimble and active in jumping from branch to branch, and from tree to tree.

They live chiefly on fruits and vegetables, and do great damage to the rice and sugar plantations, as well as gardens and orchards. When they make their depredations they generally go in a body, and have a sentinel, like the baboons; and, like them, on any alarm, carry off as much spoil as they can. They exercise great judgment in the choice of provisions, if not disturbed; for each ear of rice or cane of sugar is examined, and if it does not prove good enough for them, it is thrown aside, and another pulled up; so that much more is destroyed than what is taken away. If fruit and vegetables fail they will eat insects, and shell-fish if near the sea-coast. A monkey will watch when an oyster opens its shell, and place a stone so as to prevent its being closed again; by this contrivance the animal can put in its paw and draw out the fish. Sometimes it will place the oyster on one stone, and beat it with another till the shell is broken.

These creatures are troublesome to travellers who chance to pass under the trees where they reside, as they will throw sticks, dirt, &c. at them. They destroy the birds' nests and their

eggs; but keep themselves safe, by generally living at the tops of trees, where the large beasts cannot reach them. The serpents are their most formidable enemies. The natives, likewise, catch them as often as they can. The negroes are fond of their flesh, and, besides, are glad to kill them on account of the mischief they do. When taken young, they may be easily tamed, and are diverting from the tricks they play, but are very troublesome about a house.

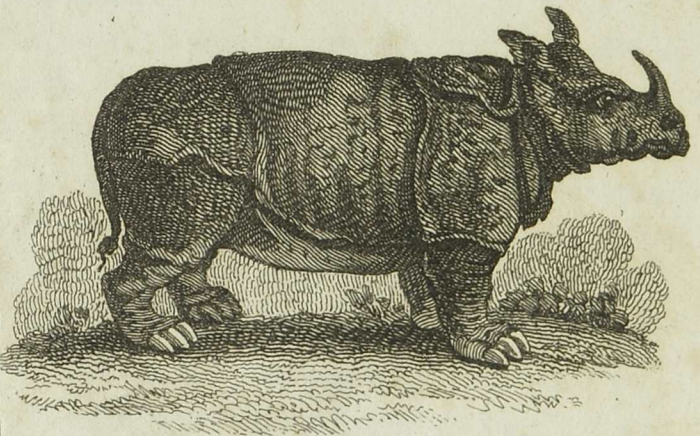
The female is particularly fond of her young, dancing and fondling it in her arms, and carrying it about on her back when she moves from place to place.

Monkeys are remarkable for imitating every action they see. It is said that sometimes this habit occasions their being taken; for a man will take a basin and water under a tree where there are monkeys, and wash his hands for some time, till he sees they have noticed him; then he goes away, leaving behind him some wooden bowls filled with pitch. The silly animals descend to wash their paws; they cannot disengage themselves from the pitch, neither can they make their escape when encumbered with the bowl, and are therefore soon taken.

Children, in this respect, are like these ani-



Elephant.



Rhinoceros.

mals, for they generally desire to do what they see others about. This habit is of great service to infants; for it is by endeavouring to imitate what they see and hear, that they learn by degrees to walk, to run, to talk, and do many other things. However, as soon as children know what is right and wrong, they should no longer act like monkeys, but like reasonable beings. God has given us reason and understanding to direct us, and therefore we ought not to follow the example of those whom we happen to live with, without considering whether it is proper or improper.

THE ELEPHANT.

This animal is very surprising and interesting, from its great sagacity. It is a native of Africa and Asia. In a wild state elephants herd together. When on a march from one place to another, they move in great order, the oldest leading the way, and the next in age bringing up the rear; whilst the females, the young, and any that are feeble and sick, are placed in the middle.

They do great mischief when they come down upon plantations; for they not only devour whole fields of rice, sugar, &c. (as they

live on vegetables,) but trample the ground with their broad feet, which sink so deep from the weight of their immense bodies, that they spoil a great deal more than they eat. The natives do all they can to keep them at a distance, by fences, and by trying to terrify them by fires and noises of various kinds; but when joined together in a band, they are too formidable to be attacked; though the negroes hunt a single one for its flesh, as well as for its tusks.

The form of this animal is very awkward: the head is large, and so is the body; the back much arched; the legs extremely thick and short; the feet not a great deal bigger than the legs, but divided into five parts; the tail has a small bunch of thick, black hair at the end; the skin is generally of a deep ash-colour, nearly black, not covered with hair; the tusks are two immense teeth, which grow out of the upper jaw, and are sometimes ten feet long: they are chiefly used as weapons of defence. The eyes are very small. It sometimes is twelve or thirteen feet high, usually nine or ten. The most remarkable thing about this animal, is the trunk or proboscis, which is a long, hollow tube, about eight or ten feet in length, growing from the nose. This proboscis is capable of being turned and twisted in every

direction. At the end is fixed a finger, which enables it to pick up any article, however small. This curious instrument is of great use, for it conveys its food to the mouth by it; and when it drinks it fills this tube with water, turns it round, puts the end into its throat, and lets the water run down. Most part of the skin is quite callous; but in some places it is very thin and delicate, where flies are apt to bite and sting, and the elephant does his utmost to brush them off with his tail, the branches of trees, &c. and likewise after bathing is careful to cover all the tender places with dust.

Elephants are of so much service to man when tamed, that in those countries where they are found, great numbers are caught. The mode of taking them varies: one manner is to employ tame elephants which have been trained to the purpose, to entice the wild ones into an enclosure, which is made very strong, and without any outlet, except the entrance where they go in, and which is fastened up with strong bars as soon as the elephants are past, by men who were on the watch. After the animals have fatigued themselves with their efforts to break down the fences, and are exhausted from want of food, the hunters contrive to throw ropes over them, and to tie each to strong

stakes or trees. When properly secured, a man approaches by degrees, feeds the creature, rubs his coat, anoints his bruises with oil, and fondles and caresses him. This kindness attaches the grateful beast to his keeper, and in about five or six weeks he is generally perfectly tractable and obedient. It seldom is necessary to use harsh treatment; but if at first they are very untractable, the tame ones, which led them into the snare, beat them with their trunks. Sometimes only one elephant is taken; but at other times five or six hundred people will go out, and surround a whole herd, which are driven by the shouts and noises of the hunters, and by large fires that are lighted round them, into an enclosure prepared for their reception. After some days they are enticed, one by one, into a narrow passage, when each is secured, and treated as before described.

The elephant, when tamed, becomes the most gentle and obedient of all domestic animals; but is nevertheless subject to occasional fits of rage, something resembling madness. He is so fond of his keeper, that he caresses him, and obeys all his commands. He never mistakes his voice; but even distinguishes between the tones of pleasure, approbation, or reproof, and regulates his conduct accordingly. He bends

his knees to accommodate those who wish to mount him. He salutes his friends with his trunk, and assists in loading himself. He is employed in drawing chariots, waggons, &c. He draws steadily, and never turns restive, unless insulted or improperly chastised. The man who conducts him, rides on his neck, and has an iron rod, hooked at the end, with which he urges him on, if he is to quicken his pace; but it is seldom necessary to do more than speak to him.

The expence of keeping him is very great, as he eats a vast quantity of food, and requires a great deal of water to drink, as well as to bathe twice or three times every day.

These sagacious creatures put bundles and packages into boats, without allowing them to be wetted, and arrange them in neat order. If a cask or tun rolls, and does not lie steady, the elephant which is storing away the goods, will fetch stones and prop it up of his own accord, without waiting his master's orders.

Formerly, they were much used in war; but since the discovery of gunpowder, they are not brought into battle where fire-arms are employed, as the noise and fire terrify them, and often drive them back on the people to whom they belong. When it is desired to induce an elephant to make any violent exertion, it is not

unusual for his keeper to encourage him by the promise of a reward after his work. If this promise is not fulfilled, he is so enraged, that the keeper is in danger of being killed; for though very gentle when not offended, he is very mindful of injuries, and generally revenges himself on those persons who have treated him ill. Yet, when even in violent pain, he will take care not to hurt those who are not in fault. One which was wounded in battle, ran over the field in extreme agony, and appeared almost mad with pain. A poor soldier who was lying in the way, and unable from his own wounds to escape, expected the furious beast to trample him to death; but, on the contrary, when he came up, he stopped, took the unfortunate man up gently with his trunk, and laid him safely on one side.

If the elephant were endowed with reason, it would be proper to explain to him the impropriety of giving way to revenge. Christ has desired us to love our enemies, and to do good to those that hate us; but as this noble animal is irrational, though so far superior to every other brute, it is perfectly natural that he should feel angry and indignant towards any silly, cruel people, who can have the barbarity to deceive or ill-use him. Even man may blush to

see himself outdone in humanity and justice. How often, when offended, are we peevish and cross to those about us, without reflecting whether the victims to our ill-humours are the causes of our vexation or not.

During the wars in India, an elephant was wounded by a cannon-ball: he was taken two or three times to the hospital, after which he always went of his own accord. Notwithstanding the pain the surgeon was obliged to put him to, as it was even necessary at times to apply fire to the wound, he submitted with the utmost patience, and expressed great gratitude towards the person who cured him, though at the expence of such torment.

Many children who read this anecdote, must feel ashamed when they recollect how impatient and untractable they have been during illness, and the trouble they have occasioned their friends, to compel them to submit to the proper remedies. Pain and illness are irksome to bear; but if we are afflicted with these calamities, we should remember that it is a duty to support them with patience.

Young elephants are silly, as well as boys and girls. One was wounded in the head, and was so frantic, that no person dared to go near it

to dress the wound. At last the keeper made the mother understand what was wanted to be done. She seized her silly child, held it firmly down with her trunk, whilst the surgeon did what was right, and repeated this every day till the wound was cured.

The substance named *ivory*, is the tusk of the elephant. This is chiefly brought from Africa, and the natives say that they find vast numbers of the tusks in the forests. If this is true, they must be shed, like the horns of deer; but those elephants which are tame, are never known to lose them.

In Asia a number of these creatures are kept by the great men of the country, for pomp and magnificence. Some few are white, and are considered very valuable.

THE RHINOCEROS.

The Rhinoceros is nearly as large as the elephant, and quite equal to him in power and strength. The body is usually about twelve feet in length. The nose is armed with a formidable weapon; a hard, solid horn, about three feet long, and eighteen inches in circumference at the thickest part, which is at the base, or end near the head. With this he is

able to defend himself against the most ferocious enemy. The tiger will attack the elephant in preference to the rhinoceros, the danger of having his bowels torn out by this terrible horn is so great. It is even said that he can lift up a bull upon it, like a foot-ball.

The body and limbs are defended by a skin so impenetrable, that no spear or knife can enter the upper parts. It is necessary to have iron bullets to shoot a full-grown rhinoceros, for those of lead are sometimes flattened against the skin. The upper lip is very long, and ends in a point: it is so pliable, that it is of service in seizing the food and carrying it into the mouth.

The skin is of a blackish colour, and laid in plaits or folds: between the folds and under the legs the skin is soft. The ears are large; the eyes small, and so placed, that the animal can only see what is in a straight line before him.

The rhinoceros is of a quiet disposition, except he is attacked or provoked, when he is very furious and dangerous. He lives on vegetables, and therefore seldom attacks any other creature; though, if attacked himself by the most formidable beast, he never flies, but defends himself very successfully. He does not appear to

possess the sense of smelling acutely; but he hears quickly, and is always attentive to the least noise.

Some of the natives of Asia tame these animals, and bring them into their battles; but they are unmanageable, and generally do more harm than good, often turning back on their masters.

The flesh is eaten by the inhabitants; and the skin, hoofs, teeth, &c. are sometimes used in medicine. Cups are made of the horn, which the ignorant people there fancy will discover when a poisonous draught is put into them, by causing it to boil and bubble up. There is, however, no truth in this idea; and cups made of this horn will hold poison as quietly as any other cups. Thus we find, ignorant people always like to tell and believe wonderful stories.

It has also been said that the tongue is so rough, that it will tear the skin off any man which it licks. This is false, as the tongue of this animal is remarkably soft for its size.

Three or four of these creatures have, at different times, been brought to England and exhibited. They all have been gentle, and tolerably obedient to the keeper. When wild, they inhabit the forests of Asia and Africa.

One species of rhinoceros has two horns, and the skin is not nearly so much folded: in other respects it resembles the single-horned rhinoceros.

It is fond of frequenting cool, shady places, near the water, and rolls often in the mud, to cover all the soft and tender parts of its skin with a coat of mud, that a particular fly, which stings and teases it extremely, may not be able to penetrate its flesh.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.

A full-grown Hippopotamus is as large as a rhinoceros; sometimes even larger than that animal. One that was killed in the south of Africa, was above ten feet long, and about nine in circumference. Its form is very uncouth: the body is large, fat, and round; the legs short and thick; the head large; the mouth extremely wide; the teeth long, and very strong; the tail short; the whole body covered with short hair, of a brownish colour.

These animals inhabit the rivers of Africa. On land they move slowly and with difficulty, and generally remain in the water, which is their favourite element, whilst they can provide food enough; but during the night they will

venture on land, and make terrible destruction amongst the rice and sugar plantations, &c. doing great mischief wherever they go. The Egyptians are said to lay a quantity of peas near the places where one of these creatures frequents, and his hunger generally makes him devour the peas as soon as he comes to the land. They produce insupportable thirst: he drinks immediately: the peas swell so much in his stomach, as afterwards to kill him.

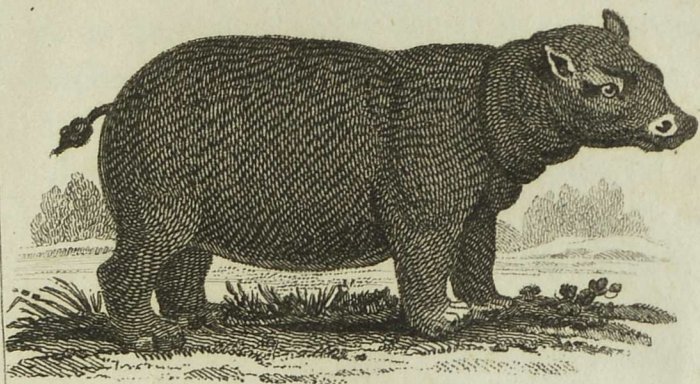
The flesh is much esteemed by the natives, who often dig pit-falls in the paths which lead to his haunts. Even on land he is very formidable when attacked or provoked, and in the water the negroes do not attempt to molest him. When undisturbed, he allows the boats on the river to pass him peaceably: if irritated, he will sink the whole boat in a moment.

These creatures are capable of being tamed. The skin is cut into thongs for whips. The tusks are superior to ivory, as they always retain their whiteness.

THE CAMELOPARD.

This extraordinary quadruped is only met with in a wild state, in the interior parts of Africa, and has been seen by few Europeans.

Hippopotamus.



Camelopard.

The head is something like that of a horse, but it is furnished with blunt horns, about six inches long, and each has a tuft of coarse, black hair. The neck is long and slender: it has a short, upright mane, which extends along the back, nearly as far as the tail. The shoulders are so deep, that at first the fore legs appear to be longer than the hind ones; but this is not the case. When the camelopard stands erect, it often measures sixteen or eighteen feet from the hoof to the end of the horns. The colour is reddish white, with large rusty spots.

In disposition it is gentle and timid. When pursued, it trots so fast that a horse can hardly keep up with it, and it can continue a long time without requiring rest. It feeds principally on the leaves of trees, which its great height enables it to reach with ease. When it grazes, it is obliged to divide the fore legs to a considerable distance. In preparing to lie down, it kneels first like the camel. It was formerly considered quite defenceless; but it is said to be able to defend itself against the lion himself, by the facility with which it kicks with its hind legs.

The Hottentots hunt it for the flesh; but particularly for its marrow, which they esteem a delicacy.

THE NYL-GHAU.

The Nyl-Ghau is a species of antelope. In its appearance it resembles both the cow and the deer. In size it is between both. Its body, horns, and tail, are not unlike those of a bull; the head, neck, and legs, are very like those of a deer. The colour is ash or grey, from a mixture of white and black hairs. Along the edge of the neck the hair is blacker, longer, and more erect, making a short, upright mane. The horns are blunt, and about seven inches long.

When wild, these animals are said to be fierce and vicious; yet Dr. Hunter describes one that was brought to this country, as being gentle and harmless, and fond of being noticed. It licked the hand that stroked or fed it; but seemed to depend on its sense of smelling, as it always snuffed hard when a stranger came in sight. It likewise appeared to be disgusted with some scents.

At Lord Clive's, two of these creatures were put together in a small enclosure, and when at a distance they prepared to attack each other, falling upon their fore knees, then shuffling

towards each other, till within a few yards, when with a spring they darted forward.

The flesh is considered a delicacy.

THE CAMEL AND THE DROMEDARY.

These two animals are so nearly alike, that the only difference seems to be, that the Camel is rather the larger, and has two bunches on his back, whilst the Dromedary is the smaller, and has but one. In other respects, the same description will serve for both. The camel is scarcely found except in Turkey and the countries of the Levant. The dromedary inhabits Arabia, the southern parts of Asia, Persia, Tartary, and a great part of the East Indies. Both species go under the general name of camel.

The camel is the most temperate of all animals, and can travel several days without drinking. In vast deserts, where neither vegetable nor animal is to be found, and nothing is to be seen but immense heaps and plains of sand, the camel travels on, without requiring drink or pasture. The feet are entirely formed for this sandy soil, and are unfit for moist or marshy places. By the assistance of this patient, faithful quadruped, the inhabitants are

enabled to travel these deserts in safety, which otherwise would be impassable; for no other animal could support the necessary fatigue, and privation of food and water.

The camel is a ruminating animal; but besides the four stomachs that all creatures possess which chew the cud, he has a peculiar contrivance, by which, when he meets a supply of water, he can take in a stock, and deposit it in cells in his stomach, prepared for the purpose, till he is pressed by necessity. It is owing to this singular formation, that he is able to travel so many miles in a hot and sandy country, where not a drop of water is to be obtained. Travellers, when perishing from thirst, have been induced to kill a camel for the sake of the provision of water he contains: the water is always perfectly sweet and good.

The Arabs could not subsist without this serviceable beast. They feed upon the flesh as well as the milk; clothe themselves with the hair, which is soft and silky; and if they fear an enemy, they mount their camels, and in a single day will sometimes travel above a hundred miles. Nothing can be more dreary than the immense deserts of Arabia. These sandy plains are at times torn up by winds, and move

in great waves, which resemble the ocean more than the earth. It is only here and there small spots of verdure are found; yet it is to these forlorn solitudes that the Arabs fly for safety. Here they live in security, as no army could venture to pursue them, where the want of food must quickly destroy both men and horses.

The camel is only a few days old when his master bends his legs under him, compels him to lie down, and loads him with a burden proportioned to his strength, which is increased as he grows older and stronger. The same attention is used to accustom him to sustain both hunger and thirst,

In Turkey, Persia, Arabia, Barbary, and Egypt, all commerce is carried on by the means of these animals. Merchants and travellers unite in a body, to secure themselves from the attacks of the robbers which infest those countries. The assemblage is called a caravan; the numbers are sometimes ten thousand, and often there are more camels than men. Each camel is laden according to his strength: of this he is so sensible, that if his burden is too great, he will not rise till it is lessened. They travel slowly in these journeys, and seldom go above thirty miles a day. Every evening, when they stop, they are permitted to feed at liberty:

of course, the most fertile spots are chosen as stages; but the drivers take care to supply them with a kind of paste, which is their chief nourishment. As they often go over the same tracks, it is said they know their way, and will go on in the right direction, when even the guides are at a loss. They know when they are approaching water, at a very considerable distance, and never fail to make the best and quickest approach to it.

The camel kneels at the command of his master, to be loaded and unloaded, and is remarkably tractable and patient in general; though, like the elephant, he is at times subject to fits of rage. When he has been insulted or ill-used, he is not only indignant at the moment, but bears the injury in mind, and takes the first opportunity of being revenged. When he has once satisfied his anger, he is perfectly reconciled; and it is asserted, that when a driver has offended a camel, he will dress up a figure in his own clothes, and leave it lying like a man asleep, in the way of the provoked animal, which immediately tramples on it till his revenge is satisfied; after which the driver may appear with security, as the camel never attempts to punish him twice for the same offence.

THE LAMA.

The Lama is only to be met with in America. It is smaller and more feeble than the camel, yet resembles it greatly in figure, as well as in disposition. It is employed in the same services, and is of nearly as much use to the Americans, as the camel is to the Arabs. The wool or hair is partly long and partly short: it is manufactured into beautiful stuffs.

When provoked, it throws out a quantity of saliva, which seems its only mode of defence. It has been said that this saliva irritates the skin, and occasions violent itching wherever it touches; but Mr. Bingley, author of "Animal Biography," says, that he received some of it on his hand, from an animal of this kind which was exhibited at Exeter 'Change, and he felt no more inconvenience from it, than if it had been so many drops of pure water.

THE BEAR.

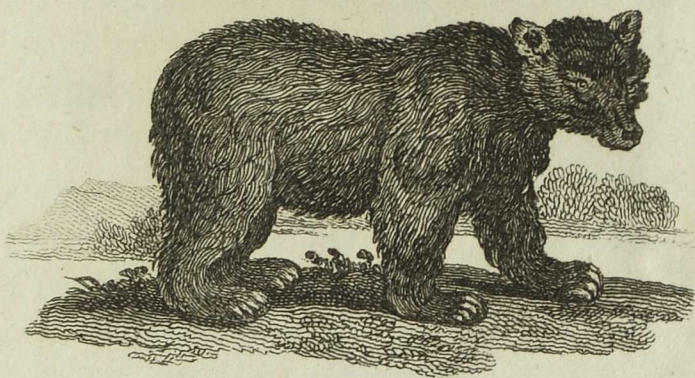
This animal is an inhabitant of the forests of the northern parts of Europe, and is likewise found in some of the Indian islands. The Brown Bears live chiefly on vegetables; the

Black Bears, in a great measure, on animal food. They suck the blood of their prey, like the weasel tribe, and hide what they cannot devour at the time, in the marshes. They are very fond of honey, and climb trees in search of it; for notwithstanding the awkward form of the bear, he can climb with ease. He also frequents the banks of rivers, for the purpose of catching fish.

He is a savage and solitary animal, living in the most retired parts of the forest. Great part of the winter he keeps in his den, and though fat at that time, is very lean in the spring when he comes out again; as, during that hard season, he eats little or nothing. Black Bears are so attached to each other, that the hunters never dare to attack the cub when the dam is by, as she will risk her own life in defence of her young, or to revenge its death. If the dam should be shot, the cub will not leave her, but remains by her side with every indication of affliction. The usual way of killing the bears, is shooting them with fire-arms or bows and arrows. The Laplanders overtake them in their snow shoes, and knock them down with clubs, after they have been wounded.

In Kamtschatka they are seen in large companies, and appear to be much more tame and

Bear



Badger.



gentle than the generality of the tribe. They descend from the mountains to the rivers to catch fish, and when food is plenty, only eat the head of the fish.

These creatures are so gentle, that they seldom attack a man; and even when wounded, often do not turn against the assailant. They will even come and eat out of the hand of a person they meet. Yet, as the Kamtschadales find a use for almost every part of this animal, they hunt them, and take them in many ways. Of the skin they make beds, caps, gloves, and collars for their sledge-dogs; as well as soles for their shoes, which enable them to go on the ice without danger of slipping. The fat is a great delicacy, and, when melted, is used as oil. The flesh is much esteemed. The intestines, when dried and prepared, are made into masks, for the women to preserve their complexions; and likewise into window-panes, which are as transparent as Muscovy glass. Muscovy glass is made of isinglass, and is nearly as transparent as our glass. The shoulder blades make sickles for cutting grass. The Kamtschadales observe what plants and herbs the bears apply to their wounds, and by this means have learnt how to dress their own.

The bears in Hungary are likewise much

more gentle than those in the north. At night they come into corn-fields to feed, draw the ears through their fore-paws, rub off the chaff, and eat the grain.

When the bear is taken young, it may be rendered tolerably tame and docile; but never if it is old before its education begins. Many and great cruelties are practised on those unfortunate creatures which are brought to this country, and led about to play many tricks, and to dance to amuse children and silly people; who are entertained, merely because they do not know, or do not reflect, on the barbarity that has been used to teach them such uncouth antics. It is to be hoped, that this practice will soon be discontinued. We have a right to destroy those creatures which might be injurious to us, and the flesh of which is necessary for our nourishment; but we have no right to torment any living thing. Formerly it was a favourite sport amongst the people of England, even of the higher class, to bait bears. This cruel and inhuman sport is now happily seldom heard of in this country.

The White Bear inhabits the coast of Greenland. It grows to an enormous size, much bigger than the brown and black kinds. It is extremely fierce when attacked or wounded.

Sometimes if a bear is on one of the huge pieces of ice which float about the North Seas, the wind blows the ice, bear and all, out to sea, where he perishes, unless he can regain the shore. It is said not to be very uncommon for a bear to jump into the boat in which a Greenland and his wife are paddling about, and to sit quietly to be rowed to the shore. However, there is danger of the boat being upset by his endeavour to get into it. At times, the white bears swim over to the opposite shores of Iceland, where all the inhabitants arm against him. On such occasions he is so urged by hunger, that he will attack the first man he meets, who has little chance of escaping, except he can throw something in the way to amuse and detain the pursuer. A glove is a good thing for this purpose, as the bear will not leave it till he has turned each finger inside out.

THE BADGER.

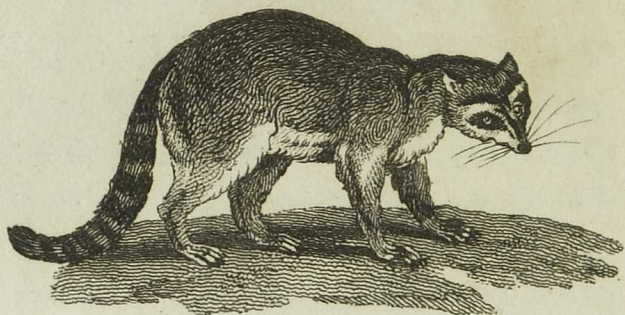
The legs of the Badger are so short, and the hair so long, that its body appears almost to touch the ground. It is a solitary animal, and finds its security in digging a deep hole. It avoids the light, seldom coming out of its re-

treat in the day-time, but stealing out at night in search of food. The fox cannot dig with the facility the badger does, and therefore often turns him out of his house, and takes possession himself. However, the badger soon makes himself another habitation. If pursued by the dogs at a distance from his hole, he fights desperately, and seldom dies unrevenged. He sleeps the greatest part of his time, and when he prowls for prey, nothing that has life comes amiss to him, if he has strength to conquer it.

When taken young it is easily tamed, and plays with dogs, and runs about the house following its master; but when old, it is always untractable and savage.

THE TAPIR.

This animal has a long snout, which it lengthens or contracts at pleasure. Its ears are long and small; its neck and tail short; its claws, of which it has four upon each foot, strong and firm. Its skin is thick, and the Americans make shields of it, that cannot be pierced by an arrow. It is a gentle, timid animal, and chiefly resides in the water; but comes on shore in the night, to feed on vegetables. It flies at the least noise, and seeks safety by plunging



Raccoon.



Sloth.



Jerboa

into the water. When attacked by dogs, however, it makes a stout resistance. It is much sought after by the natives, who esteem the flesh a delicacy. It is only found in America.

THE RACCOON.

The Raccoon, which is sometimes called the Jamaica Rat, is about the size of a small badger. Its fur is long and fine, of a blackish colour. It uses its fore-paws like a squirrel, and climbs trees with much agility; for it is very active, though its body is short and bulky. It is a native of South America.

Great numbers are to be found in the mountains of Jamaica; and when they descend upon the plantations, they do considerable mischief, spoiling in a night the labours of a month. When tamed, they are quite harmless, playful, and amusing, and may be kept with as little trouble as a cat, as they will eat almost any thing. When left at liberty in a garden, it will feed on snails and other insects. If it can, it likes to dip its food into water before devouring it.

THE COATIMONDI.

This animal greatly resembles the last-mentioned one, except that its snout is much longer. When tamed, it is playful; but if at liberty, will kill poultry, or any thing else that it can conquer. It often eats a part of its own tail; and, indeed, some monkeys have been known to do the same.

THE SLOTH.

This animal has received its name from its extreme aversion to action. It is so formed, that it moves with great difficulty. Its figure is uncouth: the body thick; the fore-legs short; the hind ones longer; the feet small, but armed with three exceedingly long, sharp claws; the head small; the face short; and the hair of the top of the head hangs over it, so as to give it an odd appearance. The colour of the hair is a grayish brown: it is long, thick, and coarse. It climbs trees with difficulty, being two days in ascending one; yet, as it has still greater difficulty in descending, or travelling on plain ground, it never quits a tree till it has stript it of every leaf; then it rolls itself into a

ball, and prefers the shock of falling at once to the ground, to the painful task of descending by degrees. It lies torpid a little while, and when it recovers, begins to crawl to the next tree; but moves so slowly, that it is a week going fifty yards, all which time it remains without food. It seizes a branch of a tree so firmly with its claws, that it will be killed sooner than quit its hold. It is chiefly found in America.

THE ANT-EATER.

The body of the Ant-eater is covered with long, coarse hair. Its head is long and slender; the mouth small, and just big enough to contain the tongue, which is folded up double in it. The tail is extremely long, and is used to defend the body from a shower of rain, and to cover it whilst asleep. This creature is a bad walker. Though it has no teeth, it is a formidable enemy, as, when attacked, it strikes its long, sharp claws into its adversary, and never quits its hold but with death. It feeds on ants. When it comes to an ant-hill, it scratches it up with its claws, and unfolds its tongue, which the ants mistake for a long worm, and gather on it in great numbers, so that hundreds are

swallowed at once. It swims over great rivers with ease. It is a native of America. When tamed, it will pick up crumbs of bread, and small pieces of flesh.

THE JERBOA.

The Jerboa is not larger than a rat, with a head something like a rabbit's, and a long tail. The hind legs are more than two inches long, with three claws, like those of a bird; the fore-legs not an inch in length, with four claws and a thumb. It is found in Egypt, Barbary, and the deserts between Bassora and Aleppo. It is very active, and extremely swift, though it generally only runs on its hind legs, using its fore-legs as hands. It is a lively, harmless animal, living on vegetables. When pursued, and in danger of being overtaken, it burrows so quickly, that it is soon out of sight.



CONCLUSION.

It is impossible to read even this short account of the most remarkable animals, without being struck with two things, the infinite power and

goodness of Almighty God. No one but a being of the greatest wisdom and power, could have made such a variety of living creatures, and endowed them with such different talents and faculties. Nor is the mercy and goodness of God less conspicuous than his power; for we find every animal enjoying comfort and happiness, and possessing, to a certain degree, the ability to secure or defend itself from the attacks of its enemies, as well as the means of finding nourishment for itself and young. Man is gifted with reason and speech, and has not only the advantage of his own experience, but may, if he chooses, profit by that of others; for he may learn from those about him, and from those who have lived ages before him, what has been done, and what valuable discoveries have been already made. But brutes cannot hand down to each other the events that have passed in their lives. One race of beavers cannot leave an account for the next, what plan of building is most convenient, and what materials are the best for erecting their habitations. An elephant, with all its wonderful sagacity, cannot write an account of its observations, and leave it for its young. It is owing to this, that we find irrational animals never go on in a state of progressive improvement, as man does. No: they

always continue the same. Beavers were as industrious, and as good architects, a thousand years ago, as they are now; elephants were as sagacious; and foxes were as cunning and as expert in escaping danger then, as in the present days. They have made no improvements. Indeed, they could not; for as far as their powers go, they are perfect. This faculty of always acting in the fittest manner without thought or reflection, without even knowing why, is called *instinct*, and is an evident proof of the care with which God watches over all his works.

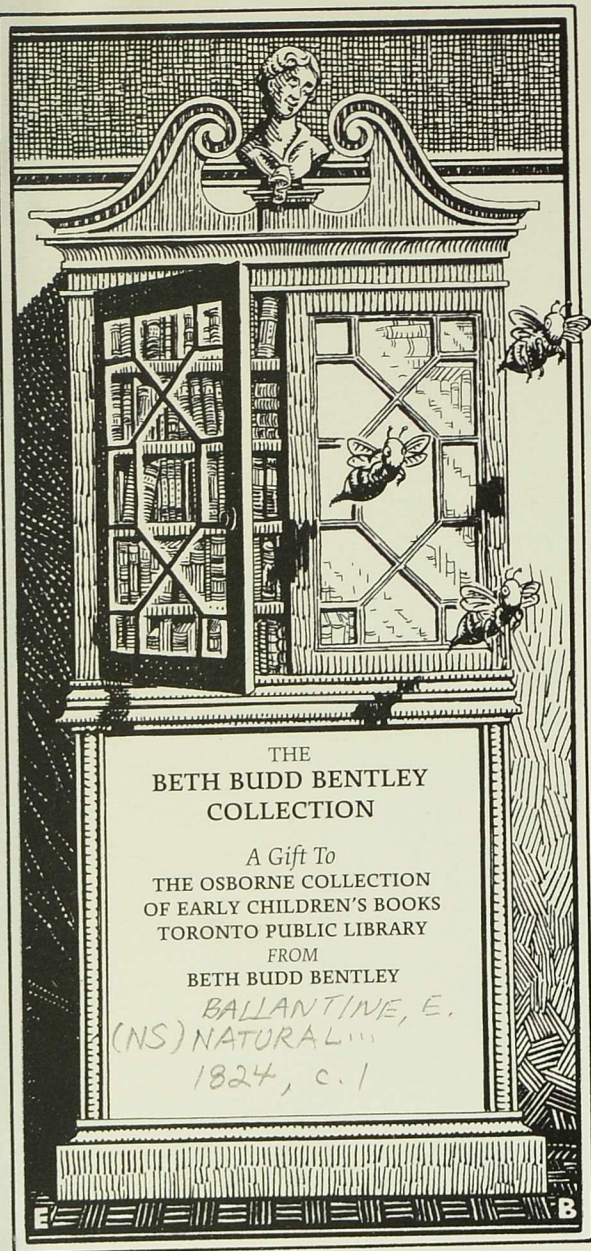
Man reasons on what is to be done, he judges for himself, and decides on the conduct that he thinks most likely to make him happy; but man often errs, and takes the wrong instead of the right side. However, he can see his error, and correct his conduct. This power of judging between good and bad, right and wrong, makes him an accountable being, and makes him subject to be praised or blamed, rewarded or punished; and, as his soul is immortal, and will live for ever, the consequences of his behaviour here will not end in this world, but will render him happy or miserable in the world to come.

Let us look around us, amongst all the tribes of animals, not one has the privilege of knowing his Creator, the Lord of Heaven and Earth,

but man; not one has the glorious privilege of obtaining heaven and eternal life, but man. How despicable, how disgraceful, then, for man, highly-favoured man, to neglect to improve these blessings; to forget the hand that formed and protects him; and, instead of endeavouring to secure the love of his Maker, that, in a few short years, he may be admitted into the society of angels, to reduce himself by vice and stupidity, to a level below "the brutes that perish!"

THE END.





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