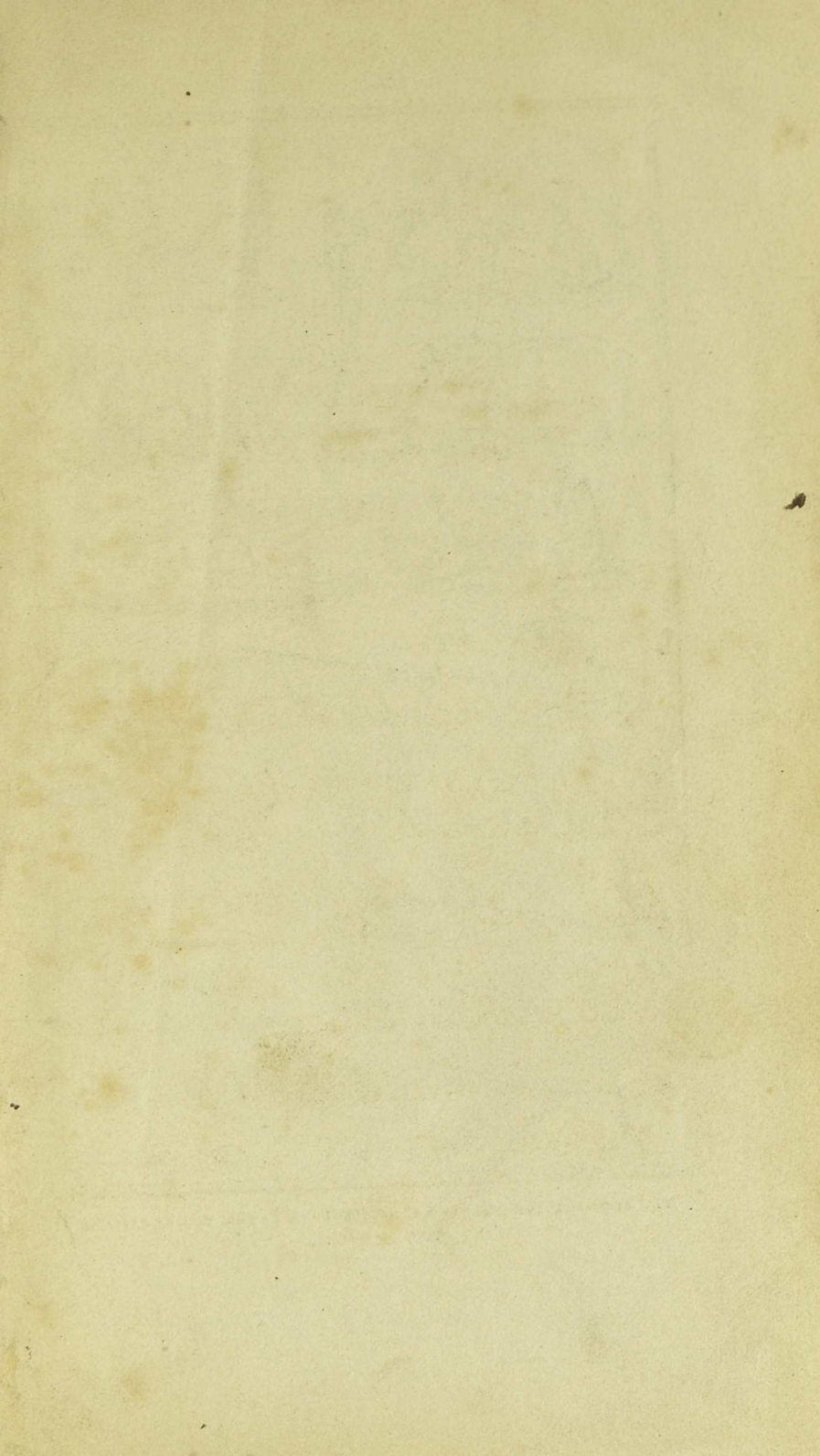
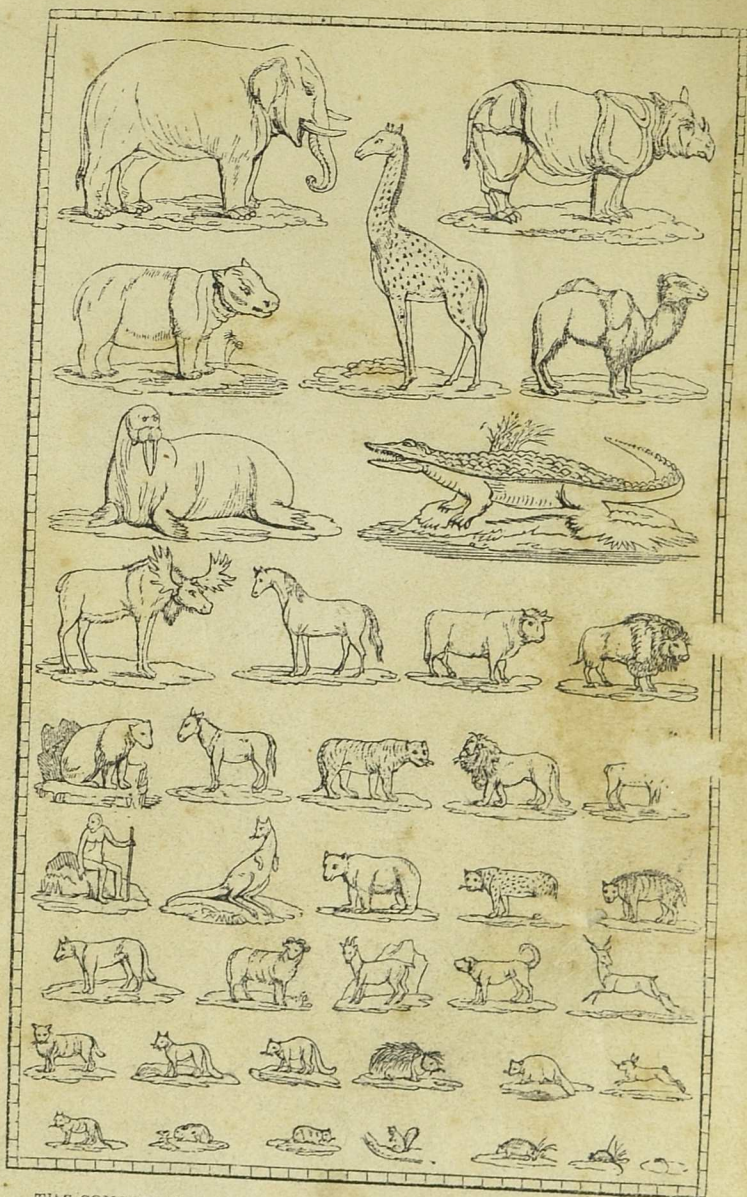




F. M. Wallace.







THE COMPARATIVE SIZE OF VARIOUS ANIMALS, FROM THE ELEPHANT TO THE MOUSE.

TALES OF ANIMALS.

COMPRISING

QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, FISHES, REPTILES,
AND INSECTS.

BY PETER PARLEY,

AUTHOR OF TALES ABOUT EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AMERICA, ETC.

Third Edition,

WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD.



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THE
PUBLISHERS ADVERTISEMENT
OF THE
THIRD EDITION

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Chiswick Press:

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THE
PUBLISHER'S ADVERTISEMENT
TO THE
THIRD ENGLISH EDITION.

PETER PARLEY'S Tales about Animals, about Europe, Asia, Africa, America, the Islands of the Pacific, the Sea, the Sun, Moon, and Stars, &c. have acquired a reputation in the United States of America beyond any thing of the kind that has ever been published. One of them has been translated into Modern Greek by the Missionaries at Malta, and one is published in the French language. More than one hundred thousand copies of the several works are sold annually in America.

In consideration of their great celebrity and obvious adaptation to youth, the Publishers determined to give the most important to the British Public. They are abundantly illustrated with Cuts; and it is presumed that they will be found better calculated to unite amusement with instruction than any similar publications which have hitherto appeared.

PREFACE

TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

THOSE of my kind young friends, who, two or three years since, appeared to be gratified with the stories about Europe and America, may by this time have some curiosity to become acquainted with the subject of Animals, a subject which affords more amusing details, and more astonishing facts, and suggests more deep and important reflections, than any other in the whole range of natural science. Acting upon this conjecture, and wishing to see the History of Animated Nature become a subject, not of general reading only, but of general study in our schools, I have ventured to prepare and offer to the public the present volume. If my readers discover in it a graver manner than has heretofore been assumed by Peter Parley, let them reflect that while I cherish the pleasant memory of their childish friendship, I may deem it proper now to accommodate my speech to the more mature taste and riper judgment of my late pupils and listeners. If there are passages which appear to indicate that my mind is wandering back to other days, and that I still fancy myself to be addressing children, for these I beg the indulgence of the reader towards an old man's failings.

PETER PARLEY.

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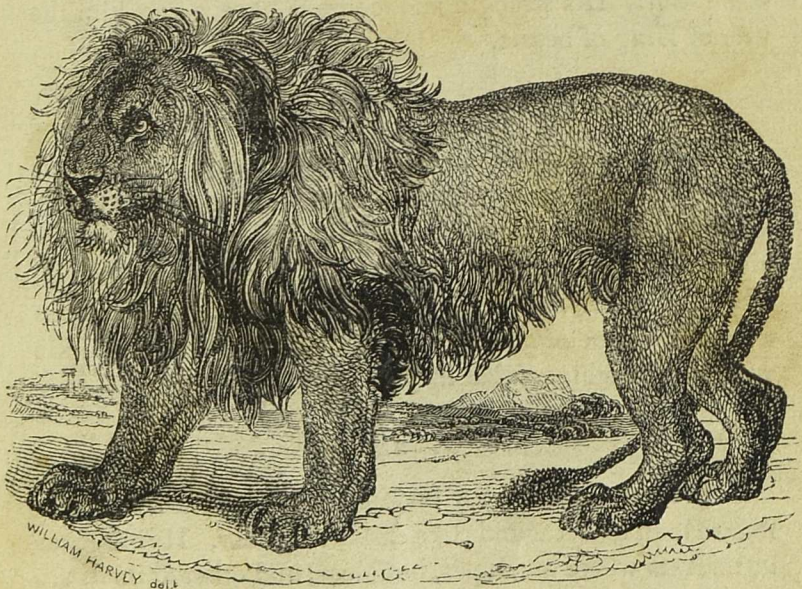
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TALES OF ANIMALS.

OF
QUADRUPEDS, OR FOUR-FOOTED BEASTS.

Animals of the Cat Kind.

THE LION.



OF THE FORM OF THE LION.

THE head, neck, and shoulders of the Lion are very large ; his hinder parts are comparatively thin and small. His neck is furnished with a thick shaggy mane. His form is admirably contrived to produce great strength.

OF HIS SIZE.

The height of the Lion is from three to four feet; his length is six to nine feet. An ordinary Lion is six feet in length, and three in height, and is in size between the tiger and stag.

OF HIS STRENGTH.

The strength of the Lion is prodigious. He can easily break the skull of a horse by a stroke of his paw. A large one can drag off a horse or an ox; there are few animals, indeed, that he cannot master. The elephant, tiger, and rhinoceros, are said to be the only animals that can withstand him. His strength and courage have given him the title of King of beasts.

OF HIS COLOUR AND APPEARANCE.

The colour of the Lion is a yellowish red; his mane is dark-coloured, and sometimes black. When he is at rest, his aspect is very grave and majestic. When he is enraged, his look is terrible. He then lashes his sides with his tail, lifts up his bristly mane, curls his lip with a malicious expression, discloses his strong teeth, and his eyes sparkle with such brightness that they seem to emit fire.

OF HIS HABITS.

The Lion roams about in forests, sometimes uttering a roar so loud that it sounds like distant thunder. He crouches in thickets where antelopes, buffaloes, and other animals are wont to come for food or drink; and when one of them is near, he springs upon it with a furious bound, and seizes it in his strong claws. He then tears it in pieces and devours the flesh, and sometimes the bones. He usually seeks his prey in the night; and is sly and skulking, like a cat, in his method of pursuing other animals.

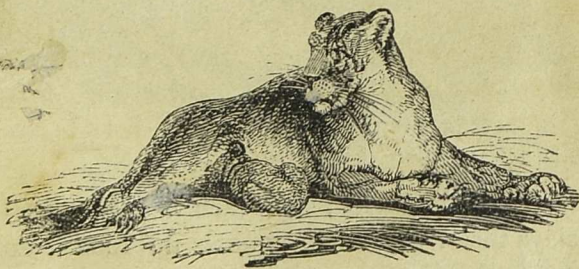
THE COUNTRIES HE INHABITS.

The Lion is a native of most parts of Africa, and the southern parts of Asia. He is much more common in Africa, however, than in Asia. In the hottest climates he grows to the greatest size, and displays the fiercest qualities. There is an animal found in South America called a Lion ; but its proper name is *puma* or *cougar*.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS OF THE LION.

The Lion sometimes lives to a great age. One by the name of Pompey died in London, in the year 1760, at the age of seventy years.

Although the size or bulk of the Lion does not much exceed that of a stag, yet his weight is much greater. This arises from the very uncommon solidity of his structure. His bones are very hard and strong, and his muscles exceedingly large and compact. A smaller portion of his body is flesh, and a greater part is bone and muscle, than that of most other animals.

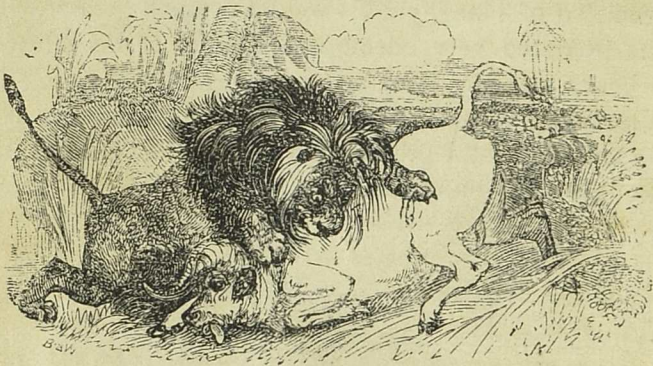


The LIONESS, or female Lion, is much smaller than the Lion ; she has no mane, and is less patient and more ferocious in her character. Young Lions, when a few weeks old, are only as large as very small dogs, and are harmless, pretty, and playful as kittens.

It has been common to impute many generous qualities to the Lion ; and to illustrate these traits of character mul-

titudes of tales have been told. And when we see a Lion in a cage, his grave and noble mien can easily persuade us to believe them. But we should consider that a Lion which has been a long time confined has lost in some measure the qualities which characterize him in the wilderness. There he is represented by travellers as a bloodthirsty and ferocious, yet sly, cowardly, and treacherous animal, stealing upon his prey like a cat, and often retreating with fear when faced by a man.

The Lion principally lives in the plains of Asia and Africa, and is always found where there are large herds of wild antelopes and other animals feeding together. The Lion follows these herds, and kills them night by night.



He also attacks buffaloes; and such is his power that he easily slays them. To these animals the Lion is an object of unceasing dread.

It is supposed by the agitation which oxen display when a Lion is near them, that they can scent him at a considerable distance. Whatever may be his strength, therefore, and we know it is prodigious, it is evident he could not easily take these and other animals by strength alone. The instinctive fear of the creatures upon which he preys would be constantly called into action by their keen sight and

acute scent; and they would remove to some distant part before the destroyer could reach them. The Lion, too, as well as the tiger and others of the same species, seldom runs. He either walks or creeps, or, for a short distance, advances rapidly by great bounds. It is evident, therefore, that he must seize his prey by stealth; that he is not fitted for an open attack; and that his character is necessarily that of great power, united to considerable skill and cunning in its exercise.

The Lion requires about fifteen pounds of flesh, for food, every day. As he prefers the flesh of animals recently killed, and will seldom condescend to make a second meal upon the same carcass, it is obvious that the havoc he must make among the antelopes and other beasts upon which he preys, is prodigious. If we contemplate the death of one of these harmless creatures; the shock of affright when he hears the bound of his enemy; the agony when he feels his grasp, and the mortal pang when his throat is fastened in the jaws of the monster; we cannot but be struck with wonder at the amount of suffering which is necessary to support this king of the forest during a life which sometimes extends to seventy years.

But if we look further, we shall observe the same process going on around us on a smaller scale. The cat inflicts similar pain and destruction upon the birds and mice, and is as greedy and bloodthirsty, in proportion to her size, as the Lion himself.

Every one, almost, is familiar, by reading or by hearing, with the roar of the Lion. It is a sound of terror, and produces an appalling effect. It is said by travellers that it sometimes resembles the sound which is heard at the moment of an earthquake: and that he produces this extraordinary effect by laying his head upon the ground, and uttering a half-stifled growl, by which means the noise is conveyed along the earth. The instant this roar is heard by the animals who are reposing in the plains, they start up

with alarm; they fly in all directions; and sometimes they rush into the very danger which they seek to avoid.

The Lion, as well as all of the cat tribe, takes his prey at night; and it is necessary, therefore, that he should have peculiar organs of vision. In all those animals which seek their food in the dark, the eye is usually of a large size, to admit a great number of rays. The power of seeing in the dark, which the cat tribe possesses, has always appeared a subject of mystery; and it is natural that it should be so, for man himself sees with more difficulty in the dark than any other animal; he has a compensation in his ability to produce artificial light by lamps and candles. This peculiar kind of eye, therefore, is necessary to the Lion to perceive his prey; and he creeps towards it with a certainty which nothing but this distinct nocturnal vision could give.

You must have observed what are usually called the whiskers on a cat's upper lip. The use of these in a state of nature is very important. They are organs of touch. The slightest contact of these whiskers with any surrounding object is felt most distinctly by the animal, although the hairs are themselves insensible. They stand out on each side, in the Lion, as well as in the common cat, so that, from point to point, they are equal to the width of the animal's body.

If we imagine, therefore, a Lion stealing through a covert of wood in an imperfect light, we shall at once see the use of these long hairs. They indicate to him, through the nicest feeling, any obstacle which may present itself to the passage of his body; they prevent the rustle of boughs and leaves, which would give warning to his prey if he were to attempt to pass through too close a bush; and thus, in conjunction with the soft cushions of his feet, they enable him to move towards his victim with a stillness greater even than that of the snake who creeps along the grass, and is not perceived till he has coiled round his astonished prey.

I have thus gone through several of the most striking peculiarities of the Lion. His formation is evidently designed for the destruction of animal life. I have noticed the roar by which he rouses his prey; the eye by which he sees it in the dark; the sensitive whiskers, and the cushioned foot, by which he creeps upon it without noise; and the great physical force by which the spring upon the victim is performed. I might further notice his powerful paw, the instrument with which he strikes his prey; his strong teeth, his formidable jaw, with which he can crush the bones of an ox or buffalo; and his tongue, provided with a prickly surface, enabling him to lick flesh from the bones.

All these properties form a part of the condition of the Lion's existence; and it should be borne in mind that the very nature of his food has a tendency to preserve his character unaltered, to support his enormous muscular strength, and to perpetuate his bloody habits. The more we extend our researches into the animal kingdom, the more shall we be struck with this extraordinary adaptation of the parts of living bodies to their respective uses; the more shall we be convinced, by our own imperfect knowledge, of the perfection of that Wisdom and Power, whose works are as marvellous as they are unbounded.

ANECDOTES OF THE LION.

A few years ago there was a remarkable exhibition at Warwick, in England, of two combats between Lions and dogs. The tempers of the two Lions were very different. The one, an exceedingly gentle creature, could not understand that the dogs seriously meant to attack him; and he bore their onset with the greatest patience. The other, of a fiercer and more unsubdued disposition, would not endure the liberties of the fierce bull-dogs that were set upon him; and he very soon made a fearful havoc amongst them.

This cruel and disgraceful experiment had its precedents. The ancient Romans delighted in such brutal exhibitions.

Sylla caused one hundred to engage together; Pompey, six hundred; and Cæsar, four hundred. The emperors of Rome also found pleasure in these exhibitions of barbarian magnificence. Adrian, it is said, often caused a hundred Lions to be destroyed in the circus; and Antoninus and Marcus Aurelius were equally prodigal in providing such savage excitements for the appetite of the people.

It may be judged from these relations, which we find in the Roman historians, that Lions were infinitely more abundant in ancient times than they are now.

Mr. Burchell, who travelled in Africa a few years since, gives an account of the following interesting adventure with a Lion.

The day, says he, was exceedingly pleasant, and not a cloud was to be seen. For a mile or two we travelled along the banks of the river, which in this part abounded in tall rushes. The dogs seemed much to enjoy prowling about, and examining every bushy place, and at last met with some object among the rushes which caused them to set up a most vehement and determined barking. We explored the spot with caution, as we suspected, from the peculiar tone of their bark, that it was, what it proved to be, Lions.

Having encouraged the dogs to drive them out, a task which they performed with great willingness, we had a full view of an enormous black-maned Lion, and a Lioness. The latter was seen only for a minute, as she made her escape up the river, under concealment of the rushes; but the Lion came steadily forward and stood still to look at us. At this moment we felt our situation not free from danger, as the animal seemed preparing to spring upon us, and we were standing on the bank at the distance of only a few yards from him, most of us being on foot and unarmed, without any visible possibility of escaping.

I had given up my horse to the hunters, and was on foot myself, but there was no time for fear, and it was useless to

attempt avoiding him. I stood well upon my guard, holding my pistols in my hand, with my finger upon the trigger, and those who had muskets kept themselves prepared in the same manner. But at this instant the dogs boldly flew in between us and the Lion, and, surrounding him, kept him at bay by their violent and resolute barking. The courage of these faithful animals was most admirable; they advanced up to the side of the huge beast, and stood



making the greatest clamour in his face, without the least appearance of fear.

The Lion, conscious of his strength, remained unmoved at their noisy attempts, and kept his head turned towards us. At one moment, the dogs, perceiving his eyes thus engaged, had advanced close to his feet, and seemed as if they would actually seize hold of him, but they paid dearly for their imprudence, for without discomposing the majestic and steady attitude in which he stood fixed, he merely moved his paw, and at the next instant I beheld two lying dead. In doing this, he made so little exertion that it was scarcely perceptible by what means they had been killed.

Of the time which we had gained by the interference of the dogs, not a moment was lost; we fired upon him; one of the balls went through his side just between the short

ribs, and the blood immediately began to flow, but the animal still remained standing in the same position. We had now no doubt that he would spring upon us; every gun was instantly reloaded; but happily we were mistaken, and were not sorry to see him move quietly away; though I had hoped in a few minutes to have been enabled to take hold of his paw without danger.

This was considered, by our party, to be a Lion of the largest size, and seemed, as I measured him by comparison with the dogs, to be, though less bulky, as large as an ox. He was certainly as long in body, though lower in stature; and his copious mane gave him a truly formidable appearance. He was of that variety which the Hottentots and boors distinguish by the name of the Black Lion, on account of the blacker colour of the mane, and which is said to be always larger and more dangerous than the other, which they call the Pale Lion. Of the courage of a Lion I have no very high opinion; but of his majestic air and movements, as exhibited by this animal, while at liberty in his native plains, I can bear testimony. Notwithstanding the pain of a wound, of which he must soon afterwards have died, he moved slowly away with a stately and measured step.

At the time when men first adopted the Lion as the emblem of courage, it would seem that they regarded great size and strength as indicating it; but they were greatly mistaken in the character they have given to this indolent, skulking animal, and have overlooked a much better example of true courage, and of other virtues also, in the bold and faithful dog.

The following account, given by another traveller in South Africa, is entitled to credit.

Our waggons, says the narrator, which were obliged to take a circuitous route, arrived at last, and we pitched our tent, and, after having arranged every thing, went to rest, but were soon disturbed; for, about midnight, the cattle

and horses, which were standing between the waggons, began to start and run, and one of the drivers to shout, on which every one ran out of the tent with his gun.

About thirty paces from the tent stood a Lion, which, on seeing us, walked very deliberately about thirty paces farther, behind a small thorn-bush, carrying something with him, which I took to be a young ox. We fired more than sixty shots at that bush, and pierced it stoutly, without perceiving any movement. The south-east wind blew strong, the sky was clear, and the moon shone very bright, so that we could perceive every thing at that distance.

After the cattle had been quieted again, and I had looked over every thing, I missed the sentry from before the tent. We called as loudly as possible, but in vain: nobody answered; from which I concluded that the Lion had carried him off. Three or four men then advanced very cautiously to the bush, which stood right opposite the door of the tent, to see if they could discover any thing of the man, but returned helter-skelter, for the Lion, who was there still, rose up, and began to roar. They found there the musket of the sentry, which was cocked, and also his cap and shoes.

We fired again about a hundred shots at the bush, without perceiving any thing of the Lion, from which we concluded that he was killed or had run away. This induced the marksman to go and see if he was there still or not, taking with him a firebrand. But as soon as he approached the bush, the Lion roared terribly, and leaped at him; on which he threw the firebrand at him, and the other people having fired about ten shots, he retired directly to his former place behind the bush.

The firebrand which he had thrown at the Lion had fallen in the midst of the bush, and, favoured by the strong south-east wind, it began to burn with a great flame, so that we could see very clearly into and through it. We continued our firing into it; the night passed away, and the

day began to break, which animated every one to aim at the Lion, because he could not go from thence without exposing himself entirely, as the bush stood directly against a steep bank. Seven men, posted on the farthest waggons, watched him, to take aim at him if he should come out.

At last, before it became quite light, he walked up the hill with the man in his mouth, when about forty shots were fired at him without hitting him, although some were very near. Every time this happened he turned round towards the tent, and came roaring towards us; and I am of opinion, that if he had been hit, he would have rushed on the people and the tent.

When it became broad daylight we perceived, by the blood and a piece of the clothes of the man, that the Lion had taken him away and carried him with him. We also found, behind the bush, the place where the Lion had been keeping the man, and it appeared impossible that no ball should have hit him, as we found in that place several balls beaten flat. We concluded that he was wounded, and not far from this. The people, therefore, requested permission to go in search of the man's corpse in order to bury it, supposing that, by our continual firing, the Lion would not have had time to devour much of it.

I gave permission to some, on condition that they should take a good party of armed Hottentots with them, and make them promise that they would not run into danger, but keep a good look-out, and be circumspect. On this seven of them, assisted by forty-three armed Hottentots, followed the track, and found the Lion about half a league farther on, lying behind a little bush. On the shout of the Hottentots, he sprang up and ran away, on which they all pursued him. At last the beast turned round, and, roaring terribly, rushed amongst the crowd.

The people, fatigued and out of breath with their running, fired and missed him, on which he made directly towards them. The captain here did a brave act in aid of

two of the people whom the Lion attacked. The gun of one of them missed fire, and the other missed his aim, on which the captain, a Hottentot, threw himself between the Lion and the people so close, that the Lion struck his claws into his mantle. But he was too agile for him, threw aside his mantle, and stabbed him. Instantly the other Hottentots hastened on, and stabbed him also. Notwithstanding this, the Lion did not leave off roaring and leaping, and bit off some of their weapons, till the marksman fired a ball into his eye, which made him turn over, and he was then shot dead by the other people. He was a tremendously large beast, and had but a short time before carried off a Hottentot and devoured him.

In the southern part of Africa, where the Hottentots live, Lions are very common, and the adventures of the inhabitants with them are very frequent. One evening a Hottentot saw that he was pursued by a Lion. He was very much alarmed, and devised the following means of escape.

He went to the edge of a precipice, and placed himself a little below it. He then put his cloak and hat on a stick, and elevated them over his head, giving them a gentle motion. The Lion came crouching along, and, mistaking the cloak and hat for the man, as the Hottentot intended he should do, he sprang upon them with a swift leap, and, passing over the head of the Hottentot, was plunged headlong down the precipice.

I have heard a story of a Hottentot who was driving some cows to a pool for drink, when he saw a Lion lying in the grass. He expected that he would rather pursue the cows than him; but he was mistaken. The Lion left the cattle and ran after the driver. The frightened Hottentot had just time to climb a tree, when the furious animal came after him, and leaped up to catch him. He was out of his reach, however, but the Lion determined not to lose his prey. He lay down at the foot of the tree, and for twenty-four hours watched diligently for the Hottentot. He

was then so thirsty, that he was obliged to go and find some water. While he was gone, the Hottentot descended and ran home to his house. The Lion returned, and, finding the man gone, followed his track for a while, and then gave up the pursuit.

It is well known that the Lion will remember for a long time those who have been accustomed to feed him. The following story will illustrate this trait of character.

Some sailors went once to see a Lion which was kept in a yard. The Lion was eating some food, and he was very fierce to those who disturbed him.

At length one of the sailors approached him, saying, 'Nero, poor Nero, don't you know me?' The Lion immediately left his meat, and went toward the sailor, showing evident signs of pleasure. The sailor patted the Lion's head, and the Lion rubbed it against his hand like a cat. The people who witnessed this scene were very much astonished, till the sailor told them, that the Lion, three or four years before, was on board a ship where he was, and that he used to feed him.

I will relate another story of a similar kind.

M. Felix, the keeper of the animals in Paris, some years ago, brought two Lions, a male and female, to the national menagerie. About the beginning of the following June he was taken ill, and could no longer attend the Lions, and another person was under the necessity of performing this duty. The male, sad and solitary, remained from that moment constantly seated at the end of his cage, and refused to take food from the stranger, whose presence was hateful to him, and whom he often menaced by bellowing. The company even of the female seemed now to displease him; and he paid no attention to her. The uneasiness of the animal afforded a belief that he was really ill; but no one dared to approach him.

At length Felix recovered, and, with intention to surprise the Lion, he crawled softly to the cage, and showed only

his face between the bars; the Lion, in a moment, made a bound, leaped against the bars, patted him with his paws, licked his hands and face, and trembled with pleasure. The female also ran to him; but the Lion drove her back, and seemed angry; and, fearful that she should snatch any favours from Felix, a quarrel was about to take place; but Felix entered the cage to pacify them. He caressed them by turns; and was afterwards frequently seen betwixt them.

He had so great a command over these animals, that whenever he wished them to separate and retire to their cages, he had only to give the order; when he had a desire that they should lie down, and show strangers their paws, or throats, on the least sign they would throw themselves on their backs, hold up their paws one after another, open their throats, and, as a recompense, obtain the favour of licking his hand.

I will give you an account which has often been cited as a proof that the Lion is grateful for acts of kindness. In the days of ancient Rome, about two thousand years ago, a Roman governor treated one of his slaves or subjects, called Androcles, so cruelly that he ran away. To escape pursuit he fled to a desert and crept into a cave. What was his horror to find that this cave was a Lion's den, and to see a large Lion approach him! He expected instantly to be destroyed; but the Lion, on the contrary, approached Androcles, holding up his paw or foot with a supplicating air. Androcles examined the Lion's paw, and found a thorn in it; he drew out the thorn, and the Lion, apparently relieved, fawned upon his benefactor as a dog does upon his master.

After some time Androcles ventured back to the place where he lived before. He was soon discovered, and, being taken up as a runaway slave, was condemned to be the prey of a wild beast. He was accordingly thrown into a place where a large Lion, recently caught, was let in upon him. The Lion came bounding toward Androcles,

and the spectators expected to see the man instantly torn in pieces. What was their astonishment to see the Lion approach Androcles and suddenly fawn before him like a dog who had found his master! It was the Lion Androcles had met in the desert, and the grateful animal would not rend his benefactor.

The Roman emperor ordered Androcles to be set free, and the Lion to be given him. So Androcles showed the Lion about Rome, and obtained for the show a great deal of money.

This is the story as it has been handed down from antiquity; but there is much reason to believe that, if it is founded in truth, the tale has received great embellishment. It is highly probable that if we could divest the legend of what is fictitious, it would appear to be only another proof, that the Lion, under certain circumstances, submits to the authority of man, and remembers for a long period, one who has been accustomed to take care of him. This is doubtless the whole amount of his gratitude; his supposed forbearance and clemency are to be explained by his natural indolence, when not pressed by the calls of hunger.

After what has been related of the Lion, I think my readers will agree that we have much cause of gratitude that our lot is cast in a happy land, where we are free from all danger of wild beasts. The Lion is never seen in our forests; and if he visits the country, he comes only as a prisoner, and for no other purpose than to gratify our curiosity.

The Bengal Lion, the animal depicted in the cut at the head of this article, and his female companion, were taken in Bengal, in 1823, by General Watson. The general, while out one morning on horseback, with a double barreled rifle, was suddenly surprised by a large male Lion, which bounded out upon him from a thick jungle. He fired, and it fell dead almost close to his feet. A female then darted out upon him. He wounded her, and she fled

into the thicket. Suspecting that her den was close at hand, he followed, soon tracked her to it, and completed her destruction. "In the den were found a beautiful pair of cubs, male and female, supposed to be then not more than three days old. These the general brought away with him, and succeeded, by the assistance of a goat, who was prevailed upon to act in the capacity of foster-mother to the royal pair, in rearing them until they attained sufficient age and strength to enable them to bear the voyage to England. On their arrival in this country, in September, 1823, he presented them to his majesty, who commanded them to be placed in the Tower of London."



THE TIGER.



OF THE FORM OF THE TIGER.

THE form of the Tiger resembles that of a cat. He is more slender and elegant in his shape than the lion, and is better formed for swiftness and agility.

SIZE.

The average dimensions of the Tiger are, height, three feet; and length, six feet. They vary very much in size, however; and the largest kind exceed the largest lions in size. Some have been seen nearly ten feet long without the tail.

STRENGTH.

The strength of the Tiger is but little inferior to that of the lion. It is said that he often engages in battle with the lion, and, on account of his superior agility, with frequent success. Instances have been known of his carrying off a horse or buffalo, and passing rapidly over the uneven ground, apparently very little hindered by his enormous load.

COLOUR AND APPEARANCE.

The body of the Tiger is yellow, beautifully striped with black. He has black rings, generally fifteen in number, on his tail. There are black bands also on the legs. Nothing can be more beautiful than the power and freedom of his movements, or better indicate the force and agility which make him the dread of the countries he inhabits.

HABITS.

The Tiger, like the lion, springs upon his prey from an ambush, very much as a cat springs upon a mouse. He lurks about in marshy and swampy places, and when he kills an animal, he usually first sucks his blood, and then devours the flesh.

HIS NATIVE COUNTRIES.

The largest kind of Tiger, commonly called the Royal Tiger, is a native of all the southern parts of Asia; and is found in no other countries. Panthers, leopards, and animals nearly resembling the Tiger, and frequently called by his name, are found in Africa. In South America there is a species of Black Tiger, which is peculiarly fierce and ferocious. There are White Tigers also, found in Asia; but they are very rare.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Tiger has been often described as a creature which, in comparison with the lion, deserves all the hatred of mankind, and none of their admiration. "To pride, courage, and strength, the lion joins greatness, clemency, and generosity; but the Tiger is fierce without provocation, and cruel without necessity." Thus writes Buffon, the most eloquent of naturalists, taking up prejudices instead of attending to facts, and using his real information for the support of a false theory.

Similar in construction, the Tiger and the lion are similar in their habits; they are equally of the cat species, driven

by their nature to the destruction of animal life. The Tiger, perhaps, is somewhat more dangerous, for he has more activity than the lion; the clemency and generosity of both are doubtless equal. There is, however, this difference in their characters, which is in favour of the lion. He assists the female in rearing their young: the Tiger deserts her. The Tiger species will also destroy each other, and a female has been known to eat her cubs.

Yet the general affection of the Tigress for her cubs cannot be doubted. Captain Williamson, in his work on "Oriental Field Sports," mentions that two Tiger cubs were brought to him while stationed in the Ramghur district in India. They had been found, with two others, by some country people, during the absence of the mother. Being put in a stable, they made a loud noise for several nights, till at length the Tigress arrived to their rescue, and replied to them by the most fearful howlings. The cubs were at last let loose, in apprehension that their mother would break in; and in the morning it was found that she had carried them off to the neighbouring jungle.

In most cases the Tiger is easily terrified by any sudden opposition from human beings. A party of pleasure, in



the country, in India, were once saved from a Tiger, by a lady suddenly opening an umbrella as she saw him about

to spring. The animal shrunk back in fear, and disappeared in the forest, thus leaving the affrighted company in safety.

In narrow passes in Hindostan travellers have often been seized by Tigers, or a bullock or a horse has fallen a victim to the ferocity of the prowling beast. Horses have such a dread of the Tiger, that they can scarcely ever be brought to face him. Hunting him, therefore, on horseback, is a service of great danger; the elephant, on the contrary, though considerably agitated, will stand more steadily while his rider anticipates the fatal spring by a shot, which levels the Tiger to the earth.

One peculiarity of the Tiger is his willingness to take to the water, either when pursued, or in search of the prey which he espies on the opposite bank of a river.

Notwithstanding all that has been said of the untameable ferocity of the Tiger, still there appears to be no greater difficulty in rendering him docile than the lion. As the sovereign of Persia has his tame lions, so have the wandering priests of Hindostan their tame Tigers. These will accompany them in their walks, and remain, without attempting to escape, in the neighbourhood of their huts. The Tigers in the English menageries appear, with a few exceptions, to be ordinarily under as complete control as the lion, which, for so long a time, has been supposed to engross all the generous virtues of his race.

The truth is, that the Tiger in his native state is a bold and fierce animal, surpassing the lion himself in daring courage and ferocity, and, being less indolent than that animal, he is more to be feared. Yet when taken at an early period, and made for a long time to feel the authority and discipline of man, like the lion, he submits to man's control.

The Tigers that we see in cages are caught when young. They are found and taken when the mother is absent. When the Tigress returns and finds her young ones gone,

she pursues the spoiler with the most fearful rage. When he sees her coming, he drops one of the cubs; the Tigress returns with this to the den, and the hunter takes advantage of her absence to make his escape with the others. In this way he is able to carry off two or three of the family.

ANECDOTES.

A young Tiger was brought to England in a ship in the year 1790. The account of this beautiful animal is very interesting, and shows the great degree of docility to which the Tiger may be brought by kind and gentle treatment.

This Tiger was as gentle and playful as a kitten; he often slept with the sailors, and, while lying on the floor or deck of the ship in the sun, he would allow two or three of them to lay their heads upon him as if he were a pillow. Sometimes he would take the liberty to pilfer a piece of meat, but he would very quietly submit to be beaten for his theft.

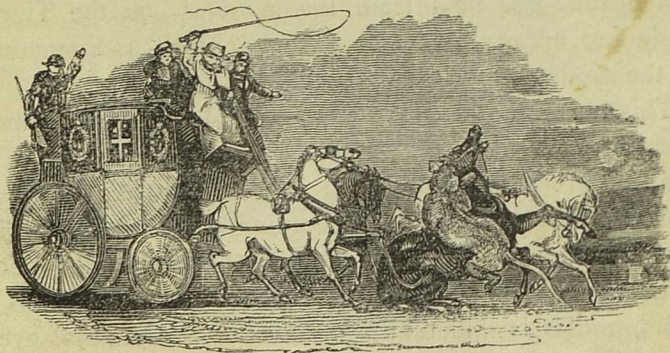
He would often run up the mast, and spring from one rope to another with astonishing agility. He would play with the people in the ship with all the airs of a young dog.

He was a month old when taken on board the ship. At the age of a year he was sent to the menagerie at the Tower in London. Here he allowed a small dog to live with him in his den; and when the little fellow played with him, and bit his foot in sport, he only lifted it up out of his way.

Two years after he had been in the Tower, a sailor from the ship in which he came to England went to see him. The Tiger knew him instantly, and manifested great pleasure at seeing him. The man went into his cage, and stayed two or three hours, and then came out in safety.

The reader may remember the attack of a Tigress upon the horses of the mail, on Salisbury Plain, in England, a few years ago. The creature had escaped from a travelling menagerie, and, not forgetting her natural habits, sprung

upon the leaders as they passed her. The guard of the coach would have shot her, but her keepers drove her off,



and she escaped to a haystack, under which she crept, and was retaken without difficulty.

The attack of one of these animals upon Mr. Monro, in India, was attended with the most tragical consequences. We went, says an eyewitness, on shore on Saugar Island to shoot deer, of which we saw innumerable tracks, as well as those of Tigers.

We continued our diversion till near three o'clock, when sitting down by the side of a jungle, or thicket, to refresh ourselves, a roar like thunder was heard, and an immense Tiger seized Mr. Monro, and rushed again into the jungle, dragging him through the thickest bushes and trees, every thing giving way to his monstrous strength: a Tigress accompanied his progress.

The united horrors of agony, regret, and fear, rushed at once upon us. I fired on the Tiger; he seemed agitated. My companions fired also; and in a few moments after this our unfortunate friend came up to us bathed in blood. Every medical assistance was vain, and he expired in the space of twenty-four hours, having received such deep wounds from the teeth and claws of the animal as rendered his recovery hopeless.

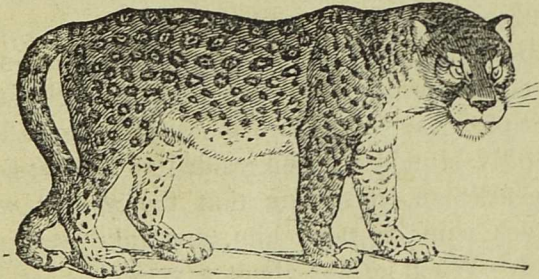
A large fire, consisting of ten or twelve whole trees, was blazing near us at the time this accident took place; and ten or more of the natives were with us. We had but just pushed our boat from the shore, when the Tigress made her appearance, almost raging mad, and remained on the sand all the time we continued in sight.

This is a dreadful story, and I wish I could give a more pleasant account of the Tiger. Happily for us, he is far removed from our land; and in the countries which he inhabits, the instances are becoming more rare, in which human beings are made the victims of his thirst for blood. It is true that he is still the scourge of some portions of India, and it is said that multitudes of the Hindoos every year fall a prey to him. But man is the natural enemy of these fierce animals, and they rapidly diminish, and soon disappear, in those places which become the seat of civilized society.

I cannot leave this subject without making one obvious remark. The Tiger is one of the most graceful and beautiful, yet one of the fiercest and most bloodthirsty of animals. It seems, therefore, that external beauty is no proof of corresponding good qualities in the character and disposition. Experience teaches us that a selfish and cruel heart may be hidden beneath a pleasing exterior.



THE PANTHER.



SIZE. FORM. COLOURS. APPEARANCE.

THE Panther is about the size of a large dog; his legs are not quite as long. His shape is somewhat like that of a cat. His colour is bright yellow, with black ring-shaped, or annular spots, some of them having spots in the middle. His hair is short, sleek, and glossy.

HABITS. NATIVE COUNTRY.

The Panther is fierce and swift; greedy of blood; climbs trees with the agility of a cat; and leaps upon his prey from lurking places, like the tiger and others of the cat family. His native country is Africa.

It has been said that this animal could not be rendered tame and docile; but abundant proof of the contrary is furnished in the following anecdotes.

ANECDOTES.

Some years ago, a fine young animal of this species was exhibited in the Tower of London. During its voyage to England it ran about the decks of the vessel in the most tame and playful manner. It was presented by Admiral Reinier; and a boy, servant to the admiral, carried it to the royal menagerie in a dog kennel, having taken it to the den in his arms, the youth appeared very unwilling to quit his favourite, and remained a considerable time, kissing the animal, and bidding it adieu in the most tender

manner. The Panther also exhibited the strongest marks of attachment; and some time elapsed before the keeper could reconcile it to its new situation.

Mrs. Bowditch, an English lady, who resided in Africa, gives a very interesting account of a tame Panther that was first in the possession of the king of Ashantee, and afterwards in that of Mr. Hutchison, who resided at Coomassie.

This gentleman, observing that the animal was very docile, took pains to tame him, and in a great measure succeeded. When he was about a year old, Mr. Hutchison returned to Cape Coast, and had him led through the country by a chain, occasionally letting him loose when eating was going forward, at which time he would sit by his master's side, and eat his share with comparative gentleness. Once he purloined a fowl, but easily gave it up to Mr. Hutchison, on being allowed a portion of something else.

The day of his arrival he was placed in a small court, leading to the private rooms of the governor; and, after dinner, was led by a cord into the room, where he received our salutations, with some degree of roughness, but with perfect good humour. On the least encouragement he laid his paws upon our shoulders, rubbed his head upon us; and his teeth and claws having been filed, there was no danger of tearing our clothes. He was kept in the above court for a week or two, and evinced no ferocity, except when one of the servants tried to pull his food from him; he then caught the offender by the leg, and took out a piece of flesh, but he never seemed to owe him any ill will afterwards.

He one morning broke his cord, and the cry being given, the castle gates were shut, and a chase commenced. After leading his pursuers two or three times round the ramparts, and knocking over a few children by running against them, he suffered himself to be caught, and led quietly back to his old quarters, under one of the guns of the fortress.

By degrees the fear of him subsided, and orders having been given to the sentinels to prevent his escape through the gates, he was left at liberty to go where he pleased, and a boy was appointed to prevent him from intruding into the apartments of the officers. His keeper, however, generally passed his watch in sleeping; and Sai, as the Panther was called, after the king of Ashantee, roamed at large. On one occasion he found his keeper sitting on the step of a door upright, but fast asleep, when he lifted



his paw, gave him a blow on the side of the head which laid him flat, and then stood wagging his tail, as if enjoying the mischief.

He became exceedingly attached to the governor, and followed him every where like a dog. His favourite station was at a window of the sitting-room, which overlooked the whole town; there standing on his hind legs, his fore paws resting on the ledge of the window, and his chin laid between them, he appeared to amuse himself with what was passing beneath. The children also stood with him at the window; and one day, finding his presence an encumbrance, and that they could not pull their chairs close, they used their united efforts to pull him down by the tail.

He one morning missed the governor, who was settling

a dispute in the hall, and who being surrounded by black people, was hidden from the view of his favourite. Sai wandered with a dejected look to various parts of the fortress in search of him; and while absent on this errand, the audience ceased, the governor returned to his private rooms, and seated himself at a table to write. Presently he heard a heavy step coming up stairs, and, raising his eyes to the open door, beheld Sai. At that moment he gave himself up for lost, for Sai immediately sprung from the door on his neck. Instead, however, of devouring him, he laid his head close to the governor's, rubbed his cheek upon his shoulder, wagged his tail, and tried to evince his happiness.

Occasionally, however, the Panther caused alarm to the other inmates of the castle, and the poor woman who swept the castle, or, to speak technically, the pia-pia woman, was made ill from her fright. She was one day sweeping the boards of the great hall with a short broom, and in an attitude nearly approaching to all-fours, when Sai, who was hidden under one of the great sofas, suddenly leaped upon her back, where he stood in triumph. She screamed so violently as to summon the other servants; but they, seeing the Panther, as they thought, in the act of swallowing her, scampered off, one and all, as quickly as possible; nor was she released till the governor, who heard the noise, came to her assistance.

Strangers were naturally uncomfortable when they saw so powerful a beast at perfect liberty, and many were the ridiculous scenes which took place, they not liking to own their alarm, yet perfectly unable to retain their composure in his presence.

This interesting animal was well fed twice every day, but never given any thing with life in it. He stood about two feet high, and was of a dark yellow colour, thickly spotted with black rosettes, and from the good feeding, and the care taken to clean him, his skin shone like silk. The expression of his countenance was very animated and

good tempered, and he was particularly gentle to children ; he would lie down on the mats by their side when they slept, and even the infant shared his caresses and remained unhurt.

During the period of his residence at Cape Coast, I was much occupied by making arrangements for my departure from Africa, but generally visited my future companion every day, and we in consequence became great friends before we sailed. He was conveyed on board the vessel in a large wooden cage, thickly barred on the front with iron. Even this confinement was not deemed a sufficient protection by the canoe men, who were so alarmed at taking him from the shore to the vessel, that, in their consternation, they dropped the cage into the sea.

For a few minutes I gave up my poor Panther as lost ; but some sailors jumped into a boat belonging to the vessel, and dragged him out in safety. The beast himself seemed completely subdued by his ducking, and as no one dared to open his cage to dry it, he rolled himself up in one corner, nor roused himself till after an interval of some days, when he recognised my voice.

When I first spoke, he raised his head, held it on one side, then on the other, to listen ; and when I came fully into his view, he jumped on his legs and appeared frantic ; he rolled himself over and over, he howled, he opened his enormous jaws, and cried, and seemed as if he would tear the cage in pieces. However, as his violence subsided, he contented himself with thrusting his paws and nose through the bars of the cage to receive my caresses. I suspect that he had suffered from sea-sickness, as he had apparently loathed all food ; but, after this period, he ate every thing that was given to him.

The greatest treat I could bestow upon my favourite was lavender water. Mr. Hutchison has told me, that, on the way from Ashantee, he had drawn a scented handkerchief from his pocket, which was immediately seized by the

Panther, who reduced it to atoms; nor could he venture to open a bottle of perfume where the animal was, he was so eager to enjoy it. I indulged him twice a week, by making a cup of stiff paper, pouring a little lavender water into it, and giving it to him through the bars of his cage; he would drag it to him with great eagerness, roll himself over it, nor rest till the smell had evaporated.

We lay eight weeks in the river Gaboa, where he had plenty of excellent food, but was never suffered to leave his cage, on account of the deck being always filled with black strangers, from whom he had a decided aversion, although he was perfectly reconciled to white people. His indignation, however, was strongly excited by the pigs, when they were suffered to run past his cage; and the sight of one of the monkeys put him in a complete fury. While at anchor in the before-mentioned river, an ourang-outang was brought for sale, and lived three days on board; and I shall never forget the uncontrollable rage of one, or the agony of the other, at this meeting.

The ourang was about three feet high, and very powerful in proportion to his size; so that when he fled with extraordinary rapidity from the Panther to the other end of the deck, neither men nor things remained upright when they opposed his progress; there he took refuge in a sail, and, although generally obedient to the voice of his master, force was necessary to make him quit the shelter of its folds.

As to the Panther, his back rose to an arch, his tail was elevated and perfectly stiff, his eyes flashed, and as he howled he showed his huge teeth; then, as if forgetting the bars before him, he tried to spring on the ourang to tear him to atoms. It was long before he recovered his tranquillity, day and night he appeared to be on the listen; and the approach of a large monkey we had on board, or the intrusion of a black man, brought a return of his agitation.

We at length sailed for England with an ample supply of provisions, but unhappily we were boarded by pirates

during the voyage, and nearly reduced to starvation. My Panther must have perished, had it not been for a collection of three hundred parrots, with which we sailed from the river, and which died very fast while we were on the north-west trades.

Sai's allowance was one per diem ; but this was so scanty a pittance that he grew ravenous, and had not patience to pick all the feathers off before he commenced his meal. The consequence was that he became ill.

He arrived safely in England, however, and was presented to the Duchess of York ; but unhappily this interesting animal died soon after.

THE PUMA, OR COUGAR.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THE size of this animal is not more than two-thirds that of the lion. His body is long, his head small ; his colour a light brown.

HABITS.

He is very nimble, and climbs trees with ease ; he prowls in woods and thickets for deer, sheep, and other animals. He is fond of killing, and will often destroy more than he has occasion for as food.

NATIVE COUNTRIES.

This animal is a native of both North and South America. In the latter country he is called a lion, in Europe he is

called the American Lion. He resembles the lion only in colour, and in his voice, which is said to be a roar somewhat like that of the lion of Africa. He has no mane.

In North America he is called *panther*, and by common people *painter*. He used to inhabit the regions along the Atlantic, and was often seen in New England and New York. But he is seldom seen now in the United States, except in the remote wilds. He has made his appearance once or twice in the mountainous districts of Pennsylvania within a few years.

ANECDOTES.

Two gentlemen were travelling in Ohio some years ago; the country being thinly inhabited, and having some reason to fear being robbed, they resolved to sleep in the woods. In the night they heard something stealing softly through the bushes upon them. Thinking it a robber, they waited a little, and then rushed toward it. They saw nothing, but in the morning they found their horses bloody and torn, and therefore knew that a Cougar, instead of a robber, had been prowling about them; and that this animal had chased the horses, and scratched them with its claws.

A short time since, some gentlemen were hunting in Pennsylvania; one of them shot a deer; on going up toward it he saw a Cougar had taken possession of his prize. He shot this Cougar; but on going nearer to the deer, he found that another Cougar was engaged in strangling the animal, which was not quite dead. After killing him also, the hunters were able to take peaceable possession of their game.

Two men were searching for game several years since in the Catskill mountains. Coming to a hill, they agreed to pass around it, one going one way, and the other going the other way. At length one of them heard the report of a gun; he ran to the spot, but could see nothing of his companion. He found his dog, at length, torn in pieces; and by and by saw a Cougar, with the body of his friend, in the

top of a tree. He fired his gun, and the animal dropped, with his prey, to the ground. The dog of the huntsman attacked the wounded animal, but was instantly killed by a stroke of his paw. The huntsman now procured help at a neighbouring village. The party found the Cougar dead, and by it the body of the unfortunate sportsman, who was also dead.

The following tale is related by Captain Head, who travelled recently in South America. The facts were told him by the actor in the scene.

A gentleman was trying to shoot some wild ducks, and in order to approach them unperceived, he put the corner of his poncho, which is a sort of long narrow blanket, over his head, and crawling along the ground upon his hands and knees, the poncho not only covered his body, but trailed along the ground behind him.

As he was thus creeping by a large bush of reeds, he heard a loud sudden noise, between a bark and a roar; he felt something heavy strike his feet, and, instantly jumping up, he saw, to his astonishment, a large Cougar actually standing on his poncho; and, perhaps, the animal was equally astonished to find himself in the immediate presence of so athletic a man.

The man told me he was unwilling to fire, as his gun was loaded with very small shot; and he therefore remained motionless, the Cougar standing on his poncho for many seconds. At last the creature turned his head, and walked very slowly away. This adventure is represented in the preceding cut.

The Cougar is still common in South America. Mr. Beaumont, in his work on Buenos Ayres, says, that he has frequently seen this animal chained up like a house-dog, apparently as tame and as familiar with his master.

THE LEOPARD.



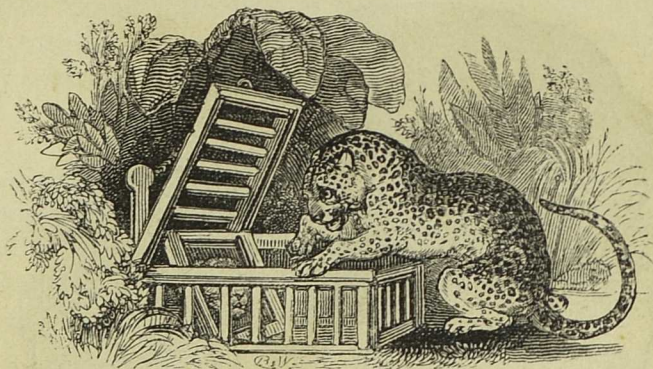
SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE Leopard is smaller than the panther, but resembles him in form; his colour is brighter, and the spots on his skin are smaller, and so disposed as to resemble the print of the animal's foot. The circular spots or rings on the panther have frequently a spot in the middle; those of the Leopard have none. He is very beautiful, and his skin is much prized. He preys, like the panther, on antelopes, sheep, monkeys, and other animals. He abounds in the interior of Africa, and is found in many parts of Asia.

ANECDOTES.

It used to be said that the Leopard could be caught by a trap, with a mirror so contrived, that the animal, on seeing the reflection of himself in the mirror, would imagine that

he had met with an enemy, and so attack it; upon which the trap would spring and secure him.



I have heard of a boy who had never seen a mirror, till one day, being in a great passion, he happened to pass one. He thought the image he saw was another boy, and it looked so wicked, that he was very much alarmed. He lifted his stick to defend himself, when the boy in the glass lifted his stick also. He took this for a challenge, and struck at the imaginary boy, thus dashing the mirror in pieces. The Leopard, then, is not alone in disliking his own angry face, so long as he thinks it belongs to somebody else.

In the year 1708, two of these animals, a male and female, with three young ones, broke into a sheepfold at the Cape of Good Hope. They killed nearly a hundred sheep, and regaled themselves with the blood; after which they tore a carcass into three pieces, and gave one of these to each of their offspring; they then took each a whole sheep, and, thus laden, began to retire; but, having been observed, they were waylaid on their return, and the female and the young ones were killed, while the male effected his escape.

THE JAGUAR, OR YAGUAR.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THE Jaguar is somewhat less in size than the panther; but is like him in shape. His colour is a brownish yellow, with black streaks and long open spots; the thighs and legs are marked with black spots, without the central spaces. His breast and belly are whitish.

HABITS. COUNTRY.

The Jaguar is less fierce in his disposition, and less sanguinary in his habits, than some others of the cat race. He inhabits thick forests, and the borders of rivers. He lives on small animals, but will sometimes destroy cows and even horses. He generally retreats before a man, unless attacked or pursued.

He often amuses himself in taking fish by the following artifice. He drops his spittle on the surface of the water,

and thus entices them to the top; as they approach, he dexterously knocks them out of the water, upon the shore, by a stroke of his paw.

The Jaguar is peculiar to South America. He is called the American tiger, and resembles the true tiger more than any other American animal.

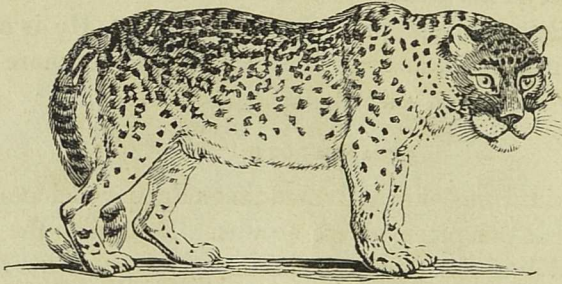
ANECDOTE.

A Spaniard was once informed that a Jaguar had attacked a horse near the place where he was. He ran to the spot, and found that the horse was killed, and part of his breast devoured; and that the Jaguar, having probably been disturbed, had fled.

He then caused the body of the horse to be drawn within musket-shot of a tree, in which he intended to pass the night, anticipating that the Jaguar would return in the course of it to its victim; but while he was gone to prepare for his adventure, the animal returned from the opposite side of a large and deep river, and having seized the horse with his teeth, drew it about sixty paces to the water, swam across with his prey, and then drew it into a neighbouring wood, the whole time in sight of the person who was left by the Spaniard, concealed, to observe what might happen before his return.



THE OUNCE.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THE Ounce is less in size than the panther, seldom exceeding three feet and a half in length; he is strong, long-backed, short-legged, and in figure resembles a cat. He is nearly of a cream-colour, and is marked with irregular black spots.

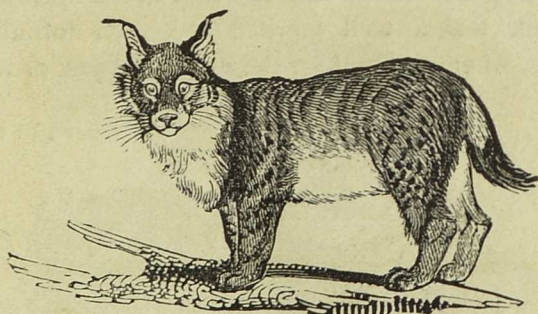
HABITS. COUNTRIES.

This animal preys on antelopes and other small animals. He is easily tamed, and is used in India for the chase of antelopes and hares, and on this account is sometimes called the hunting leopard. He is a native of Asia and Africa.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The method of hunting with the Ounce is as follows. He is carried on horseback behind the rider, on a small leathern pad, made for the purpose. As soon as the horseman sees an antelope at a moderate distance, he makes the Ounce descend, which, creeping unperceived near the spot, springs, at five or six amazing leaps, suddenly upon it, and seizes it securely by the neck.

THE LYNX.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. STRENGTH.

THIS animal is about as large as the ounce; his tail is much shorter, and black at the extremity. His ears are erect, with a pencil of black hair at the tip; the fur is long and thick; the upper part of the body is a pale gray; the under parts white. He is not a powerful animal, and offers little resistance when attacked.

NATIVE COUNTRIES. HABITS.

He is found in the northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America; climbs the highest trees, and preys on squirrels, deer, hares, the roebuck, and the wild boar. He is fond of blood, and kills great numbers of animals to satisfy this unconquerable thirst. It used to be supposed that he possessed a very extraordinary keenness of vision; that he could even see through a stone wall. "Sharp-sighted as a Lynx," is a well known adage. But recent observation has led to the opinion that he is not superior in his gift of sight to some other quadrupeds, and he is doubtless inferior to many birds in this respect.

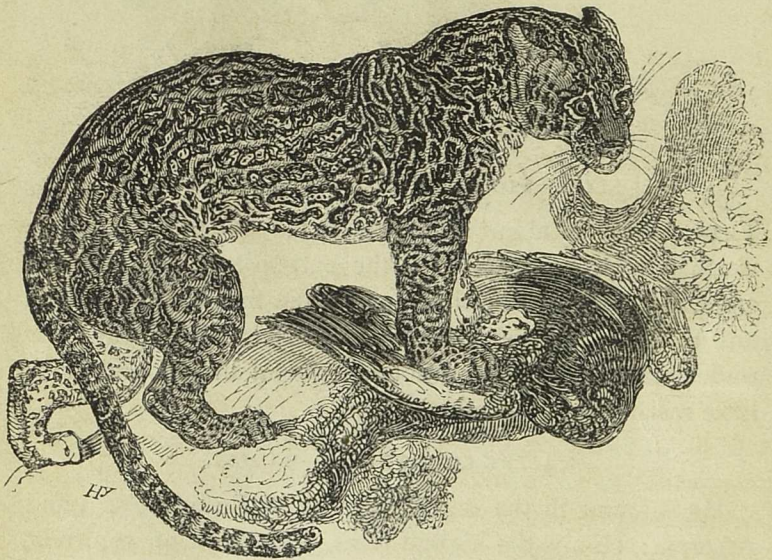
ANECDOTE.

The Lynx will sometimes undermine a sheepfold for the purpose of killing the sheep. It is related that, in Norway,

a Lynx made an attempt of this sort upon a fold; he had just got his head in sight, when an old goat very deliberately marched up and butted him to death in his burrow.

I think this a well merited reception for all house-breakers, whether they bear the name of Lynx or not.

THE OCELOT.

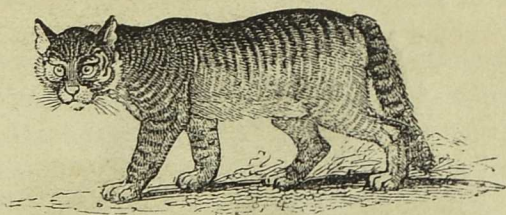


FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THIS animal is slender in his form, and he is one of the most beautiful of the cat family: his general colour is fawn, with stripes, the edges of which are black, the centre being a deeper fawn than the body. He feeds on birds, rabbits, and other small animals.

He is found in South America; like most of his tribe, he has been represented as untameable; but recent facts have proved, that he may be rendered in a considerable degree gentle and docile.

THE WILD CAT.



FORM. SIZE. COLOUR. APPEARANCE.

THE Wild Cat is in form like the domestic cat; in size it is somewhat larger. It is of a grayish colour, diversified with dusky stripes; its fur is long, and gives the animal an appearance of considerably greater magnitude than the domestic cat.

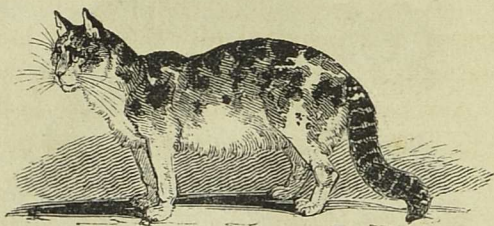
HABITS. COUNTRIES.

Wild Cats live in hollow trees, in the fissures of rocks, and in the cavities of precipices, from which they steal forth, usually in the night, in search of prey. They live on birds and small animals.

They are fierce and formidable; and, if wounded, turn on their assailant with great fury. Their howl in the forest at night has a peculiarly startling and thrilling effect. The low melancholy wail of the Wild Cat seems to impress upon the traveller in the wilderness a sense of solitude and desolation, which is never forgotten when it has once been experienced.

The Wild Cat is a native of Britain, and is sometimes called the British tiger. It is still found in that country, and is the only formidable beast of prey which is left in the British islands. The Wild Cat of North America differs from this in having a short tail curled backward.

THE DOMESTIC CAT.



HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE Domestic Cat is so common that I need not describe its appearance. It is a variety of the Wild Cat, rendered docile by domestication; and is found in almost all countries.

The Cat is assiduous to please, but is sly, distrustful, and treacherous. She will take advantage of your inattention to steal your breakfast; and if by chance you tread on the tail of one that has been the favourite of years, she will turn on you with teeth and claws, and retaliate the accident with the fiercest spite. Their affection is only apparent; they are not attached to persons, but to places. They do not easily exchange their residence, but they forget their old friends and form a new attachment, in cases where one family leaves a house and another enters it, with great facility.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

Notwithstanding these unamiable traits, her grace, beauty, softness, and insinuating manners, make Puss a general favourite, particularly with ladies. If Peter Parley had any friends among them, he would whisper in their ear, not as reproach, but as warning, that Puss resembles some of their

other favourites, possessing more grace of manner than sincerity of heart. I hope none of my readers will learn to value beauty and accomplishments more than truth and virtue, because some people attach superior importance to them.

Every person is acquainted with the playfulness of kittens. Nothing is indeed more amusing than their happy gambols. Alas! that they should ever cease to be kittens, and get to be old Cats; that they should lose their gentleness and vivacity, and become grave, cunning, selfish, long-faced prowlers, going about seeking what poor rat they may devour!

Yet to do Puss justice, we could not well do without her. But for her, our houses would be overrun with rats and mice, and our very food would be stolen and carried away by these greedy creatures.

One of the most remarkable properties of a Domestic Cat is the anxiety with which it makes itself acquainted, not only with every part of its usual habitation, but with the dimensions and external qualities of every object by which it is surrounded. Cats do not very readily adapt themselves to a change of houses; but we have watched the process by which one, whose attachment to a family is considerable, reconciles itself to such a change.

He surveys every room in the house, from the garret to the cellar; if a door is shut, he waits till it be opened to complete the survey; he ascertains the relative size and position of every article of furniture: and when he has acquired this knowledge, he sits down contented with his new situation. It appears necessary to a Cat that he should be intimately acquainted with every circumstance of his position, in the same way that a general first examines the face of the country in which he is to conduct his operations. If a new piece of furniture, if even a large book or portfolio, is newly placed in a room which a Cat frequents, he walks round it, smells it, takes note of its size and appear-

ance, and then never troubles himself further about the matter.

This is, probably, an instinctive quality; and the wild cat may, in the same way, take a survey of every tree, or stone, every gap in a brake, every path in a thicket, within the ordinary range of its operations. The whiskers of the Cat, as we have mentioned in the case of the lion, enable it to ascertain the space through which its body may pass, without the inconvenience of vainly attempting such a passage.

Cats may be taught to perform tricks, such as leaping over a stick, but they always do such feats unwillingly. There is an exhibition of Cats in Regent Street, London, where the animals, at the bidding of their master, an Italian, turn a wheel, draw up a bucket, ring a bell, and, in doing these things, begin, continue, and stop, as they are commanded. But the command of their keeper is always enforced with a threatening eye, and often with a severe blow; and the poor creatures exhibit the greatest reluctance to proceed with their unnatural employments. They have a subdued and piteous look; but the scratches upon their master's arms show that his task is not always an easy one.

One of the most remarkable peculiarities of the Domestic Cat is the property which its fur possesses of yielding electric sparks by rubbing. In frosty weather, this is occasionally very extraordinary.

It is a very prevalent notion that Cats are fond of sucking the breath of infants, and consequently of producing disease and death. Upon the slightest reflection, nothing can be more obvious, than that it is impossible for Cats to suck an infant's breath, at least so as to do it any injury.

ANECDOTES.

It has been said that a Cat has the ability to charm or fascinate birds in such a manner, that they lose the ability to escape, and thus become an easy prey. This power is

probably a faculty of inspiring birds with such terror that they become stupified and motionless. Montaigne relates the following story in illustration of this characteristic of the Cat.



There was at my house, a little while ago, a Cat seen watching a bird upon the top of a tree, and for some time they mutually fixed their eyes upon each other. At length the bird let herself fall into the Cat's claws, probably dazzled and astonished by the force of imagination.

Mr. White informs us, that a boy brought to him three young squirrels, which had been taken from their nest. These little creatures he put under a Cat that had recently lost her kittens; and he found that she nursed and suckled them with the same assiduity and affection as if they had been her own progeny.

Dr. Darwin has the following account of a similar circumstance. At Elford, near Litchfield, the Rev. Mr. Sawley had taken the young ones from a hare which had been shot. His Cat, which had just lost her own kittens, carried them away, as it was supposed, to eat them; but it presently appeared that it was affection, not hunger, which incited her, as she suckled them and brought them up as their mother.

Thus I have told you of several of the most remarkable and interesting of those animals which belong to the Cat family; the Lion, Tiger, Panther, Cougar, Leopard, Ounce, Ocelot, Lynx, Wild Cat, and Domestic Cat. There are several others belonging to the race, but I have not space to mention them in this little volume.

All these animals resemble each other in their construction and habits; they are all furnished with sharp teeth to tear their prey; and they are all endowed with instincts which lead them to feed on the flesh of other animals.

The invariable characteristic of the race, of whatever form, of whatever colour, of whatever physical power, the individual variety may be, is a ruling desire for the destruction of animal life. In some species this desire is carried into action with more boldness, in others with more cunning; but in all there is a mixture of cunning and boldness, more or less mingled with a suspicion which assumes the appearance of fear, the unchanging property of all treacherous natures.

The creature which lies at our fireside, leaps upon our table, sits upon our knee, purrs round our legs, attends us at our meals, never forsakes our houses, and altogether appears as if it could only exist in dependence upon man—the Domestic Cat—is precisely of the same nature as the Leopard or the Ocelot. The Wild Cat of the forests is the Tame Cat of the houses; the Tame Cat would become wild if turned into the woods; the Wild Cat at some period has been domesticated, and its species has been established in almost every family of the old and new continent.

Animals of the Dog Kind.

DOGS.

THE Dog species are among the most interesting of quadrupeds; those of them which are domesticated and have become the inmates of our houses, and the companions of our sports, lay a strong claim to our good will on account of their fidelity, courage, and intelligence. They even display traits of character from which mankind themselves might draw examples worthy of imitation. The instances are by no means uncommon, in which they have displayed a strength of attachment, and a devotion of friendship, which might put to shame the uncertain, wavering, and treacherous faith of many of their lords and masters.

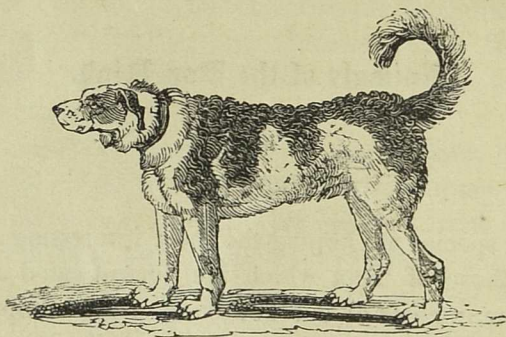
Always assiduous in serving his owner, and only a friend to his friends, he is indifferent to every one else. Constant in his affections, friendly without interest, and much more mindful of benefits than injuries, he is not alienated by unkindness, but even licks the hand that has been just lifted to strike him, and eventually disarms resentment by submissive perseverance.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

SIZE. FORM. APPEARANCE. COUNTRY. HABITS.

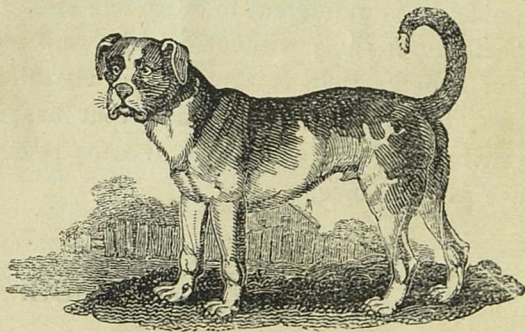
THIS species of Dog is but little smaller than the mastiff; his head is small, and his shape long. His feet are so formed as to fit him peculiarly for swimming. His aspect is gentle and intelligent.

He was first brought from Newfoundland : he is employed by the settlers there to bring wood from the interior to the



coast, and is thus extremely useful. He is an expert swimmer, and many instances have occurred in which he has saved the lives of drowning persons. His temper is excellent, and he is generally esteemed one of the noblest animals of his race.

THE MASTIFF.



SIZE. FORM. APPEARANCE. HABITS. COUNTRY.

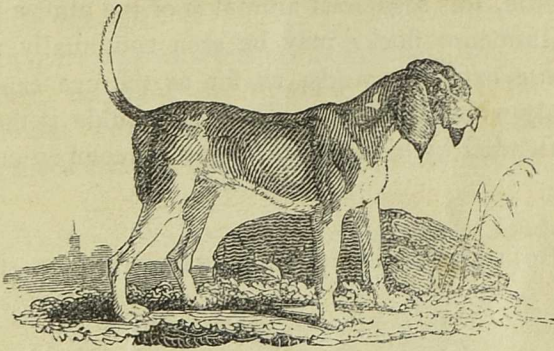
THE Mastiff is the largest of domestic Dogs ; his head is large, and his lips hang down on each side of his mouth. His countenance is noble, and he is, perhaps, the most

intelligent of the Dog family; he is characterized by vivacity, strength, swiftness, and attachment to his owner.

He is generally used as a watch Dog about houses. The frequency of robbery and theft in England, and other European countries, renders him of great value there. He is generally supposed to be of English origin.

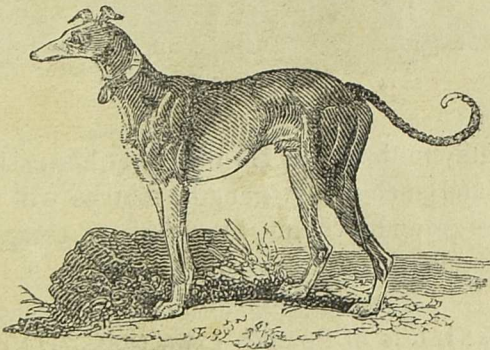
Other Kinds of Dogs.

The BLOODHOUND is remarkable for his strong powers of



smelling; he is used principally for fox-hunting. In the Spanish West Indies he is used for hunting criminals.

The GREYHOUND is longer and taller than the mastiff.

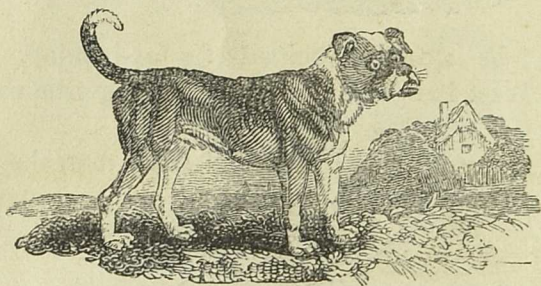


His form is exceedingly slender, and fits him peculiarly for the greatest swiftness. His appearance shows him to be a creature made for speed. He runs by sight, and not by scent as other Dogs do. He is supposed to outlive all others of the Dog species.

The SHEPHERD'S DOG is principally found in the northern parts of Scotland; in some parts of England, France, and other European countries, it is occasionally seen.

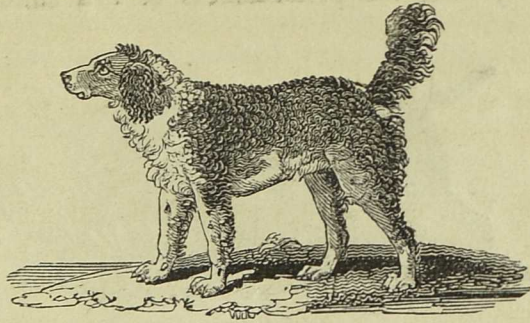
In those large tracts of land, which, in many parts of Britain, are solely appropriated to the feeding of sheep and other cattle, this sagacious animal is of the utmost importance. Immense flocks may be seen continually ranging over those extensive wilds, as far as the eye can reach, seemingly without control. Their only guide is the shepherd, attended by his Dog, the constant companion of his toils.

The BULL DOG is distinguished for his fierceness, strength,



and antipathy to the bull. He will fly at him, seize him by the nose, and such is his strength, that he will fasten the bull to the ground, without his power to escape. He is probably the most courageous of animals.

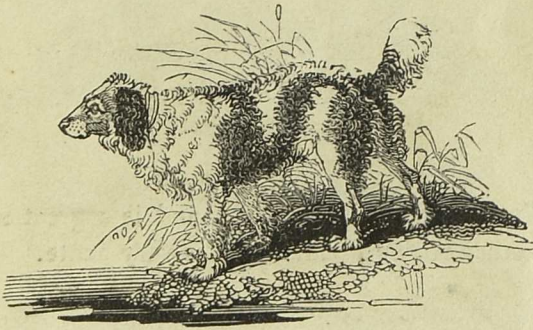
The SPANIEL is of Spanish extraction. He is remark-



able for attachment to his master, and has been known to die of grief for his loss.

There are many varieties of the Spaniel: the Newfoundland Dog, the Dog of Mount St. Bernard, the Terrier, Bloodhound, and others are among them. They are all characterized by superior sagacity and fidelity.

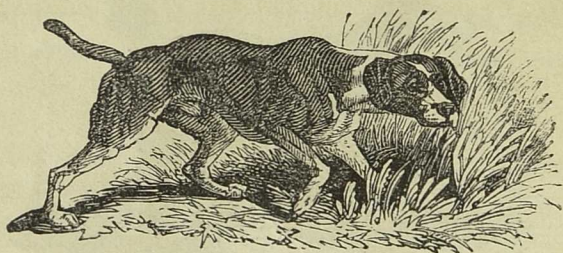
The WATER SPANIEL possesses the good qualities of the



preceding in a very high degree. He is used for hunting ducks and water animals.

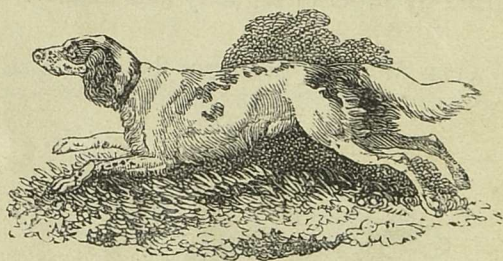
The SPANISH POINTER receives instruction with great facility, and is taught to point out game to the sportsman, such as partridges, pheasants, woodcocks, that may be crouching in their lurking places. Nothing can be more

surprising than the performances of this animal in the

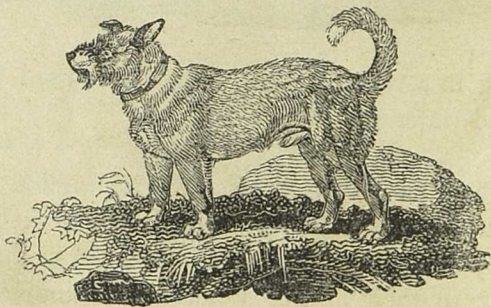


field. The English Pointer is similar to the Spanish, but is less easily taught.

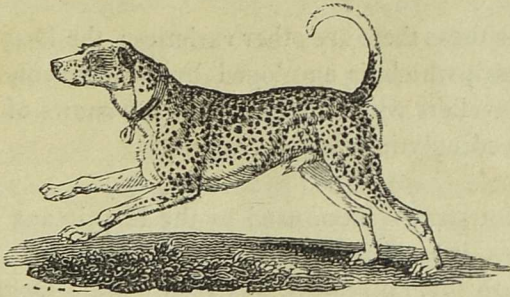
The SETTER has similar aptitudes to those of the pointer. He is possessed of exquisite scent and great sagacity.



The TERRIER is a hardy Dog, and is a great enemy to rats and other vermin. His scent is very acute.

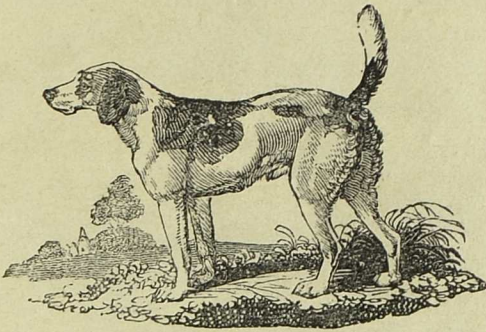


The COACH DOG is remarkable for beauty, it being white, elegantly and profusely marked with round black spots.

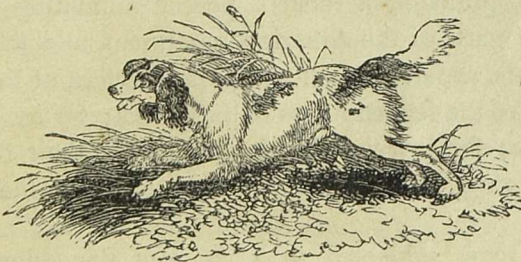


The BEAGLE is usually employed in hare-hunting. He is the smallest of Dogs used in the chase.

The HARRIER resembles the beagle, but is larger, stronger, and swifter. He is very ardent in the chase.



The SPRINGER is a very lively species of Dog, used



principally in starting woodcocks and other birds in swamps and marshes.

Besides these there are other varieties : the Dog of Mount St. Bernard, which is employed by the benevolent monks to save travellers who may be lost in the snows of the Alps, is an exceedingly interesting animal.

The ESQUIMAUX DOG, used by the Esquimaux for drawing sledges, is very valuable.

There are several other kinds of domestic Dogs, as well as a great variety of wild Dogs, of which I have not room to tell you now.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.



The Esquimaux, a race of people inhabiting the most northerly parts of the American continent, and the adjoining islands, are dependent upon the services of their Dogs for most of the few comforts of their lives ; for assistance in the chase ; for carrying burdens ; and for their rapid and certain conveyance over the trackless snows of their dreary plains.

The Dogs, subjected to a constant dependence upon

their masters, receiving scanty food and abundant chastisement, assist them in hunting the seal, the reindeer, and the bear. In the summer a single Dog carries a weight of thirty pounds, in attending his master in the pursuit of game; in winter, yoked in numbers to heavy sledges, they drag five or six persons at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour, and will perform journeys of sixty miles a day.

Dogs are very generally used in Holland and Switzerland, and some parts of France and Germany, for drawing small waggons with light loads. They are commonly employed in the vicinity of large towns to carry vegetables to market. They have been lately used in London and the neighbourhood for similar purposes.

The Newfoundland Dogs, one of the most active and sagacious varieties, are employed in their native districts to draw carts and sledges, laden with wood and fish, and to perform a variety of useful offices in the place of the horse. In many of the northern countries the bold and powerful races of Dogs are thus rendered peculiarly valuable. A century ago nearly all the travelling intercourse of Canada was carried on by Dogs.

The Dogs of Kamtschatka, as described in Langsdorf's Travels, when, in summer, they are not wanted to draw the sledges of the inhabitants, are left to rove at large and find their own food. They keep on the sea-shore, or in the neighbourhood of rivers, lurking after fish, and standing in the water up to their bellies; when they see a fish, they snap at it with unerring aim. In the autumn, they return of their own accord to their particular owners in the villages.

The Dog was entirely unknown to the inhabitants of the new world, America, before the period when it was introduced there by the Europeans; if we except an extremely small species, called the Alco, which the Peruvians are represented to have domesticated as a sort of lapdog.

From the earliest times, the Dogs in Asia appear to have been without masters. The following passage in the fifty-ninth Psalm evidently refers to this custom; "At evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a Dog, and go round about the city. Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied;" or, according to another interpretation, "if they be not satisfied, there they will stay all night." Harmer, a commentator on the Bible, explains this passage, by stating the fact, that Dogs in the east do not appear to belong to any particular persons, as our Dogs do, nor to be fed distinctly by such as might claim some interest in them, but get their living how they can.

A Dog at the commencement of madness is sick, languishing, and more dull than usual. He seeks obscurity, remains in a corner, does not bark, but growls continually at strangers, and, without any apparent cause, refuses to eat or drink. His gait is unsteady, nearly resembling that of a man almost asleep. At the end of three or four days, he abandons his dwelling, roving continually in every direction; he walks or runs as if tipsy, and frequently falls. His hair is bristled up; his eyes haggard, fixed, and sparkling; his head hangs down; his mouth is open and full of frothy slaver; his tongue hangs out, and his tail is between his legs. He has, for the most part, but not always, a horror of water, the sight of which seems generally to redouble his sufferings. He experiences from time to time transports of fury, and endeavours to bite every object which presents itself, not even excepting his master, whom indeed he begins not to recognise. Light and lively colours greatly increase his rage. At the end of thirty or thirty-six hours he dies in convulsions.

After various remedies for this terrible malady have been tried in vain, it seems now agreed that cutting or burning out the bitten part is the only one to be relied on.

Dogs, in general, can bear hunger for a very long time, without any serious injury. It is mentioned in the Memoirs of the French Academy of Sciences, that a Dog, which had been shut up and forgotten in a country house, was sustained for forty days without any nourishment beyond the wool of a quilt, which he had torn in pieces. A Dog has been known to live thirty-six days without food, or substitute for food.

Mr. Southey relates two instances of Dogs that had acquired such a knowledge of time as would enable them to count the days of the week. He says, "My grandfather had one which trudged two miles every Saturday to cater for himself in the shambles. I know another more extraordinary and well authenticated example. A Dog, which had belonged to an Irishman, and was sold by him in England, would never touch a morsel of food upon Friday, that being the day on which the Catholics fast."

I have heard of a Dog in Edinburgh that had been accustomed to go to church on Sunday with a man who lived in a neighbouring village. The Dog would set out on Saturday, go with the man to church, and then return to his master in Edinburgh.

Even among the best disciplined domestic Dogs of our own country, the original instinct, which renders them beasts of prey, sometimes breaks out. We recollect several instances, within our own knowledge, of house-dogs having taken, as the farmers expressed it, to worrying sheep; they would do this slyly; and would sometimes effect a most lamentable destruction. There is no remedy short of capital punishment for such offenders; for they can never be broken of the habit, when it has been once indulged.

The shying of horses has been considered by some as a peculiar defect of sight; at any rate it is an effect of some false terror. Dogs fill their imagination with vain fears in the same manner. We have been informed by an intelli-

gent sportsman, that returning home in the dusk with his pointer, the Dog all at once skulked behind him, and refused to advance, in spite of his master's threats.

Upon looking towards the horizon before him, the sportsman descried what he at first took for a tall man, with a broad hat, extended arms, and a body as thin as a lath. This object, which produced the Dog's alarm, was a gigantic thistle, which the gray of the twilight had magnified into fearful dimensions. The vulgar once believed that Dogs and horses could see spirits, by their often starting without any apparent cause. Such instances as this of the thistle might have given rise to the superstition.

One of the greatest terrors of a domesticated Dog is a naked man, because this is an unaccustomed object. The sense of fear is said to be so great in this situation, that the fiercest Dog will not even bark.

Some of the finest Dogs in the world are those which watch the Merino sheep upon the Spanish mountains. They wear large collars with spikes, to protect them from the attacks of the wolves; and they conduct their flocks with a gentleness which is only equalled by their courage. When they return to their folds, the Dogs bring up the stragglers without violence; and the man walks at their head, in the true pastoral style, so beautifully described in the Psalms: "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters."

MISCELLANEOUS ANECDOTES.

The convent of the Great St. Bernard is situated near the top of the mountain known by that name, near one of the most dangerous passages of the Alps, between Switzerland and Savoy. In these regions the traveller is often overtaken by the most severe weather, even after days of cloudless beauty, when the glaciers glitter in the sunshine,

and the pink flowers of the rhododendron appear as if they were never to be sullied by the tempest.

But a storm suddenly comes on ; the roads are rendered impassable by drifts of snow ; the avalanches, which are huge loosened masses of snow or ice, are swept into the valleys, carrying trees and crags of rock before them. The hospitable monks, though their revenue is scanty, open their doors to every stranger that presents himself. To be cold, to be weary, to be benighted, constitute the title to their comfortable shelter, their cheering meal, and their agreeable converse.

But their attention to the distressed does not end here. They devote themselves to the dangerous task of searching for those unhappy persons who may have been overtaken by the sudden storm, and would perish but for their charitable succour. Most remarkably are they assisted in these truly Christian offices. They have a breed of noble Dogs in their establishment, whose extraordinary sagacity often enables them to rescue the traveller from destruction.

Benumbed with cold, weary in the search for a lost track, his senses yielding to the stupifying influence of frost which betrays the exhausted sufferer into a deep sleep, the unhappy man sinks upon the ground, and the snow-drift covers him from human sight. It is then that the keen scent and the exquisite docility of these admirable Dogs are called into action. 27-

Though the perishing man lie ten or even twelve feet beneath the snow, the delicacy of smell with which they can trace him offers a chance of escape. They scratch away the snow with their feet ; they set up a continued hoarse and solemn bark, which brings the monks and labourers of the convent to their assistance.

To provide for the chance that the Dogs, without human help, may succeed in discovering the unfortunate traveller, one of them has a flask of spirits round his neck, to which

the fainting man may apply for support; and another has a cloak to cover him. These wonderful exertions are often



successful; and even where they fail of restoring him who has perished, the Dogs discover the body, so that it may be secured for the recognition of friends; and such is the effect of the temperature, that the dead features generally preserve their firmness for the space of two years.

There is a most interesting account of the rescue of a child from death, by one of these Dogs, which is sweetly put into verse by Mrs. Sigourney.

'Twas night in good St. Bernard's hall,
 And winter held his sway,
 And round their fire the monks recall
 The perils of the day:

Their fruitless search 'mid storm and blast,
 Some traveller to befriend:
 And with the tale of perils past,
 A hymn of praise they blend.

When loud at their monastic gate
 The Dog was heard to moan,
 Why doth he wander forth so late,
 Unguided and alone?—

Long on the dreariest Alpine height
 Inured to bold pursuit,
 His shaggy coat with frost-work white,
 In rushed the lordly brute.

And crouching at his master's feet
A burden strange he laid,
A beauteous babe, with aspect sweet,
Close wrapp'd in silken plaid.

The enduring affection of Dogs for their masters is well known.

In the year 1827 there was a Dog constantly to be seen in St. Bride's Churchyard, Fleet Street, which for two years had refused to leave the place where his master was buried. He did not appear miserable; he evidently recollected their old companionship, and he imagined that their friendship would again be renewed. The inhabitants of the houses round the church daily fed the poor creature, and the sexton built him a little kennel. But he would never quit the spot; and there he died.

The stories of attachment between lions and Dogs are well authenticated; and in several instances the stronger animal has afforded a protection to his trembling victim, which has ripened into friendship. In a well regulated travelling menagerie, belonging to a person named Aikins, there was in the autumn of 1828, a spaniel bitch, affording sustenance to a young tiger, that was sick, and not expected to live, and which she evidently tended with affectionate solicitude.

The practice of teaching Dogs tricks is as old as the ancient Romans.

Plutarch says he saw a Dog at Rome, at the theatre of Marcellus, which performed most extraordinary feats, taking his part in a farce which was played before the Emperor Vespasian. Amongst other things he counterfeited himself dead, after having feigned to eat a certain drug, by swallowing a piece of bread. At first he began to tremble and stagger, as if he were astonished; and, at length, stretching himself out stiff, as if he had been dead, he suffered himself to be drawn and dragged from place to place, as it was his part to do; but afterwards, when he knew it to be time, he

began first gently to stir, as if newly awaked out of some profound sleep, and lifting up his head, looked about him, after such a manner as astonished all the spectators.

The faculty by which animals can communicate their ideas to each other is very striking; in Dogs it is particularly remarkable. There are many curious anecdotes recorded, illustrative of this faculty.

At Horton, England, about the year 1818, a gentleman from London took possession of a house, the former tenant of which had moved to a farm about half a mile off.

The new inmate brought with him a large French poodle Dog, to take the duty of watchman, in the place of a fine Newfoundland Dog, which went away with his master; but a puppy of the same breed was left behind, and he was instantly persecuted by the poodle. As the puppy grew up, the persecution still continued. At length, he was one day missing for some hours; but he did not come back alone, he returned with his old friend, the large house-dog, to whom he had made a communication; and in an instant the two fell upon the unhappy poodle, and killed him before he could be rescued from their fury.

In this case, the injuries of the young Dog must have been made known to his friend; a plan of revenge concerted; and the determination to carry that plan into effect formed and executed with equal promptitude.

The following story, which illustrates, even in a more singular manner, the communication of ideas between Dogs, was told by a clergyman, as an authentic anecdote.

A surgeon of Leeds found a little spaniel who had been lamed. He carried the poor animal home, bandaged up his leg, and, after two or three days, turned him out. The Dog returned to the surgeon's house every morning, till his leg was perfectly well. At the end of several months, the spaniel again presented himself, in company with another Dog, who had also been lamed; and he intimated, as well as piteous and intelligent looks could intimate, that he

desired the same kind assistance to be rendered to his friend, as had been bestowed upon himself. A similar circumstance is stated to have occurred to Moraut, a celebrated French surgeon.

The following two instances also afford remarkable proofs of the sagacity of these animals. A British officer in the 44th regiment, who had occasion, when in Paris, to pass one of the bridges across the Seine, had his boots, which had been previously well polished, dirted by a poodle Dog rubbing against them. He in consequence went to a man who was stationed on the bridge, and had them cleaned. The same circumstance having occurred more than once, his curiosity was excited, and he watched the Dog. He saw him roll himself in the mud of the river, and then watch for a person with well polished boots, against which he contrived to rub himself. Finding that the shoeblack was the owner of the Dog, he taxed him with the artifice; and, after a little hesitation, he confessed that he had taught the Dog the trick in order to procure customers for himself. The officer being much struck with the Dog's sagacity, purchased him at a high price, and brought him to England. He kept him tied up in London for some time, and then released him. The Dog remained with him a day or two, and then made his escape. A fortnight afterwards he was found with his former master, pursuing his old trade on the bridge.

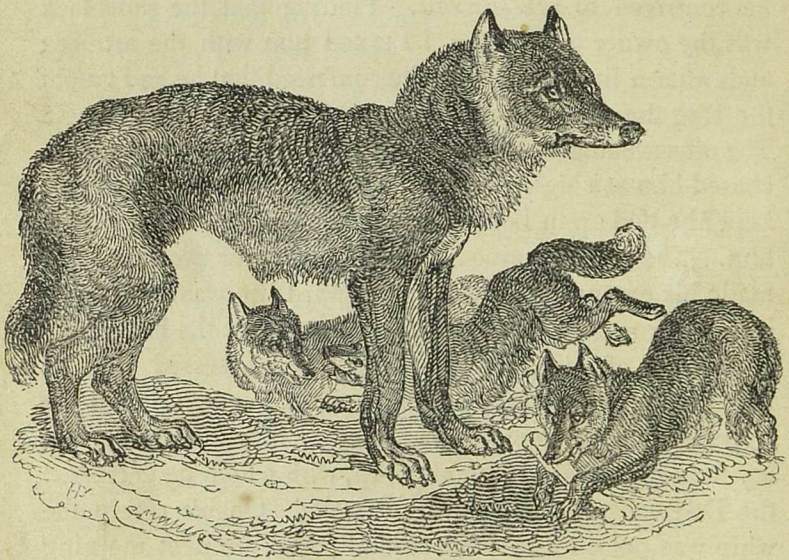
A friend of mine had a poodle Dog possessed of more than ordinary sagacity, but he was, however, under little command. For the purpose of keeping him in better order, my friend purchased a small whip, with which he corrected the Dog once or twice during a walk. On his return the whip was put on a table in the hall, and the next morning it was missing. It was soon afterwards found concealed in an old building, and was again made use of in correcting the Dog. It was, however, again lost, but found hidden in another place. On watching the Dog, who was suspected of being the culprit, he was seen to take the whip

from the hall-table, and run away with it, in order again to hide it.

We must not neglect to mention the utility of Dogs to those unfortunates who are deprived of sight. The sagacity and fidelity of these little creatures are admirable. In America, it is not common to see a blind beggar led by a Dog, but in Europe the spectacle is of frequent occurrence.

It is well known that one of these Dogs will lead the blind man about, stopping at such places as he is accustomed to ask alms at, will lead him safely between carts and waggons, and show the most surprising intelligence and fidelity in taking care of him.

THE WOLF.



SIZE. FORM. APPEARANCE. COLOUR.

THE height of the Wolf is about two and a half feet, and his length three and a half. The form of the animal is thin, and he has a gaunt emaciated look. His tail is gene-

rally nearly straight. In appearance the Wolf somewhat resembles a Newfoundland dog. He has, however, a fiercer and more savage aspect.

The colour of the common Wolf is gray; a species of Black Wolf is common in North America, and Captain Franklin mentions seeing White Wolves in his voyage to the Polar Seas.

COUNTRIES. HABITS.

The Wolf is common in Europe and America. He is a voracious and greedy animal, and in all countries seems to be hated and pursued as a general enemy. He preys on sheep, deer, and other animals. He is endowed with cunning and agility, and when pressed by hunger, he becomes daring and desperate. It is only in the latter case that he will attack a man.

ANECDOTES.

Captain Franklin, in his journal, gives an account which displays the deep cunning of the Wolf. A number of deer were feeding on a high cliff, when a multitude of Wolves slyly encircled the place, and then rushed upon the deer, scaring them over the precipice, where they were crushed to death in the fall. The Wolves then descended, and devoured them at their leisure.

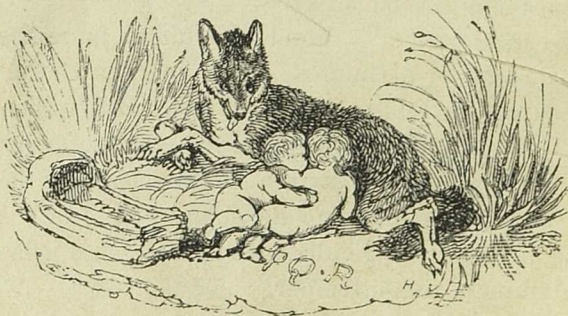
It has been generally found difficult to tame the Wolf, or to cure him of his morose and impatient character. I take pleasure in relating the following well authenticated account, which shows the powerful effect of gentle and kind treatment upon a nature so hopeless as that of a Wolf; and adds another to the many proofs of the transforming influence of gentleness and mildness in softening and subduing a rough temper.

He was brought up in the same manner as a puppy, and continued with his original owner till he was full grown. He was then presented to the menagerie at Paris. For

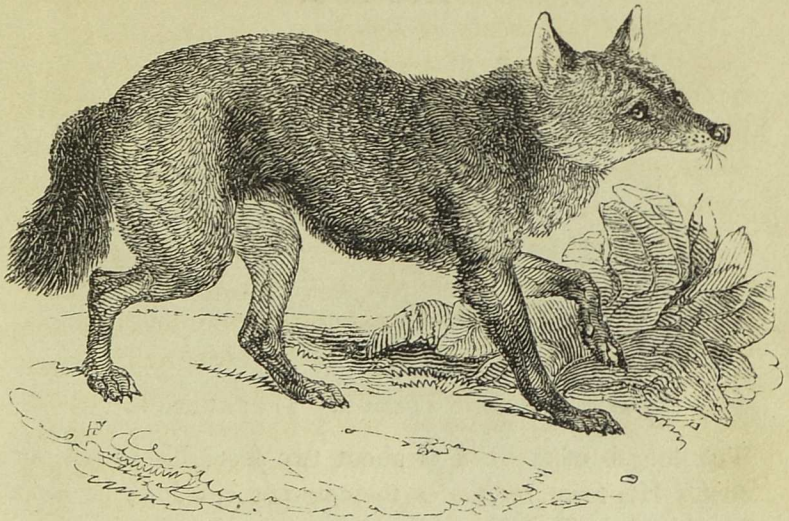
many weeks he was quite disconsolate at the separation from his master, who had been obliged to travel; he would scarcely take any food; and was indifferent to his keepers.

At length he became attached to those about him, and he seemed to have forgotten his old affections. His master returned, after an absence of eighteen months; the Wolf heard his voice amidst the crowd in the gardens of the menagerie, and, being set at liberty, displayed the most violent joy.

Again was he separated from his friend; and again was his grief as extreme as on the first occasion. After three years' absence, his master once more returned. It was evening, and the Wolf's den was shut up from any external observation; yet the instant the man's voice was heard, the faithful animal set up the most anxious cries; and the door of his cage being opened, he rushed towards his friend, leaped upon his shoulders, licked his face, and threatened to bite his keepers when they attempted to separate them.



THE JACKALL, OR CHACALL.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. APPEARANCE.

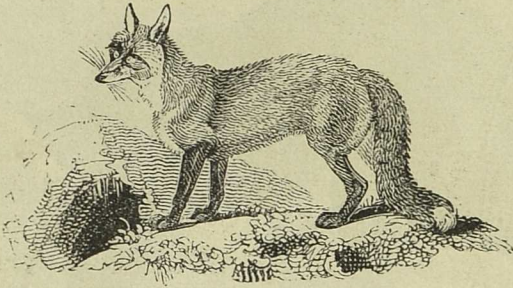
THIS animal is about two feet and a half in length, and a little more than a foot in height. He is larger than the fox, and resembles him in form and appearance. The general colour is a dirty yellow.

COUNTRIES. HABITS.

The Jackall is found in nearly all parts of Africa, and in the southern parts of Asia. It is generally supposed that the three hundred foxes to whose tails Samson tied fire-brands, were Jackalls.

These animals assemble in packs, sometimes of several hundreds, and thus are able to hunt down antelopes and sheep. The Jackall is sometimes called the lion's provider; for the lion will often follow a pack of them, and when they have killed an antelope or other animal, he will force it from them. The Jackall is a timid animal when faced by man.

THE FOX.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. APPEARANCE.

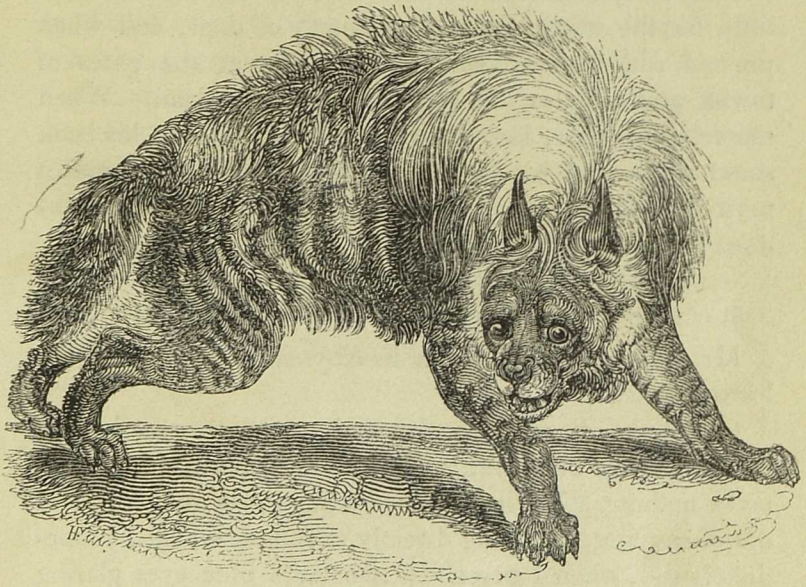
THE length of the Fox is about two feet; his height one foot. His form resembles the common cur dog; he has a long bushy tail. The common species is of a light red colour; but gray and black foxes are common. The Fox has a face which bespeaks great cunning.

COUNTRIES. HABITS.

The Fox is found in nearly all countries, except in the torrid zone. He is every where the same wily voracious animal, greedily seizing birds and small quadrupeds, either in woods or near the habitations of man. There are innumerable tales which illustrate his character for craft and ingenuity, both in the pursuit of his prey, and in eluding his enemies.

The Fox is the greatest enemy to the poultry-yard; but when his choice food, chicken flesh, is not accessible, then he devours animal food of all kinds, even serpents, lizards, frogs, toads; and if his habitation is near the water, he even contents himself with shellfish. In France and Italy he does a great deal of damage in vineyards, being very fond of grapes, and spoiling many for the choice of a bunch.

THE HYÆNA.



FORM. SIZE. COLOUR. APPEARANCE.

THE form of the Hyæna resembles that of a wolf; his back being, however, more arched, and his legs longer. His size is that of the largest dog. His colour is an ash gray; his appearance is that of a large, fierce, savage dog.

COUNTRIES. HABITS.

His countries are Asia and Africa, and sometimes he is found in Europe. He is fierce, voracious, and, on account of his impatient and irritable temper in confinement, has been generally considered untameable. But Barrow says, in his Travels, that he is domesticated in some parts of South Africa, and is esteemed one of the best of their hunting dogs. It seems probable, however, that this is a

species called the Hyæna-dog. Bishop Heber says, he saw a man in India that had a tame Hyæna following him like a dog.

Like the jackall, he devours the flocks and herds, cares little for the watchfulness or strength of dogs, and when pressed with hunger, comes and howls at the gates of towns, and violates the repositories of the dead. When receiving his food, his eyes glisten, the bristles of his back stand erect, and his teeth appear; all which give him a most frightful aspect, still further heightened by a tremendous howl.

ANECDOTE.

Mr. Bruce, in his Travels in Abyssinia, relates the following facts.

One night, in Maitsha, I heard something pass behind me toward the bed; but, upon looking round, could perceive nothing. Having finished what I was about, I went out of my tent, resolving directly to return, which I immediately did, when I perceived two large blue eyes glaring at me in the dark.

I called up my servant with a light, and we found a Hyæna standing near the head of the bed, with two or three large bunches of candles in his mouth. To have fired at him would have been at the risk of breaking my quadrant, or other furniture; and he seemed, by keeping the candles steadily in his mouth, to wish for no other prey at that time. As his mouth was full, and he had no claws to tear with, I was not afraid of him; but with a pike struck him as near the heart as I could judge.

Upon feeling his wound, he let drop the candles, and endeavoured to run up the shaft of the spear to arrive at me, so that I was obliged to draw my pistol from my girdle and shoot him; and nearly at the same time, my servant cleft his skull with a battle-axe. In a word, the Hyæna was the plague of our lives, the terror of our night walks,

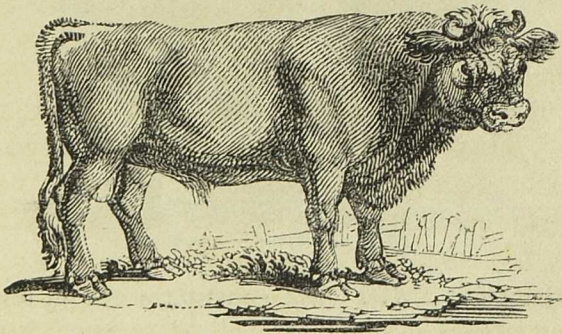
and the destruction of our mules and asses, which, above every thing else, are his favourite food.

I have thus given some account of the most interesting quadrupeds which belong to the dog family, namely, the several varieties of the Domestic Dog, the Wolf, Jackall, Fox, and Hyæna. There are still others belonging to the race, but these are the most prominent. They all resemble each other in being sagacious, in being originally beasts of prey, and in living generally on flesh.

It is proper to add, that the Hyæna, though it has been generally ranked among the dog kind, differs from them in some essential particulars, and by certain naturalists is now considered to be of a distinct race.

Animals of the Ox Kind.

THE BULL.

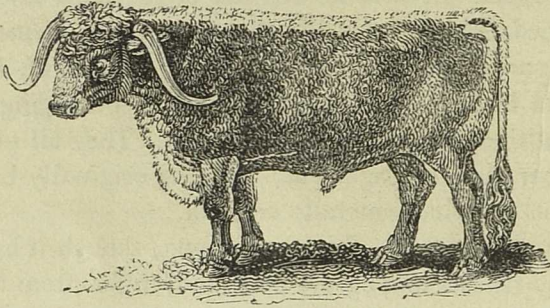


SIZE. FORM.

THE Bull equals the horse in size, though he is not quite as tall; his form is more bulky, and he is stronger made about the neck and head.

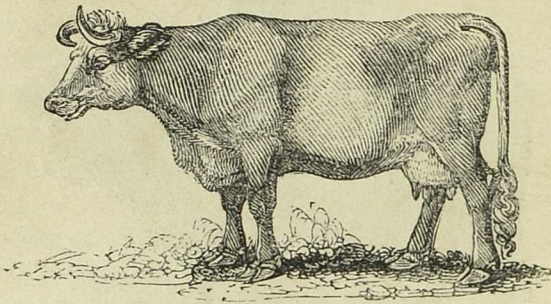
CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Ox is one of the most useful of animals, being em-



ployed in most countries for draught. In the United States of America he is more particularly used for drawing carts, for ploughing, and for other labour about the farms. His flesh makes the best kind of beef.

The Cow may be placed at the head of all quadrupeds

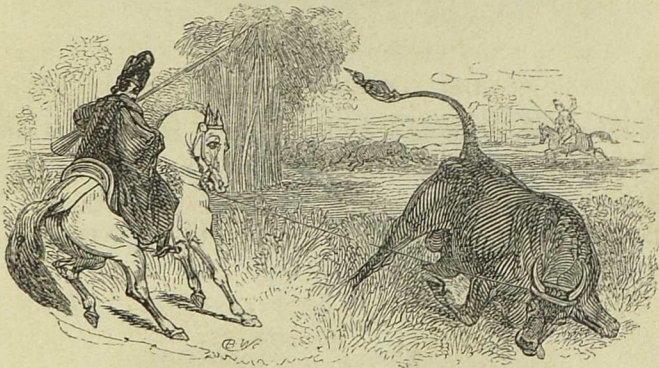


for utility to man. Her milk constitutes one of the most important articles of food to civilized society; her flesh makes excellent beef; of her horns we make knife-handles and combs; of her skin we make leather; and from the Cow we get the matter for kine pock inoculation, an effectual means of stopping the progress of small-pox, one of the most dreadful diseases with which mankind are afflicted.

Is it not painful to think that boys, ay, and men too, will, in wantonness or anger, often throw stones at, and wound, this gentle and useful creature?

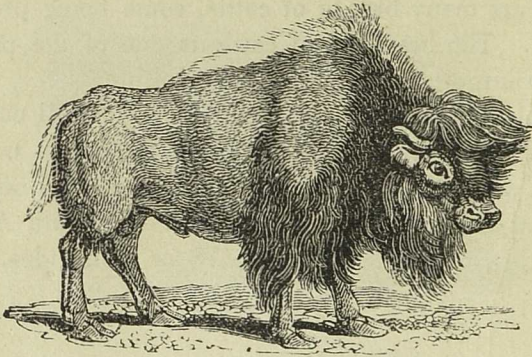
There are many breeds of cattle, some being preferable to others. The breeding of cattle is one of the principal and most important branches of agriculture.

Animals of this kind are found in almost all countries. When America was discovered, the Cow was unknown there; it was introduced by the Europeans, and now there are countless multitudes of wild cattle in South America and Mexico, which are hunted only for their hides. They



are caught with a rope, called a lasso, thrown dexterously over their heads by men on horseback.

THE BISON.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THIS animal is about as large as an ox. His form is similar, though his neck and shoulders are thicker; he has a large hump above his shoulder, and he has a mane; his hinder parts are comparatively thin and small. His colour is a dark brown, nearly black.

HABITS. COUNTRIES.

The Bison grazes like the cow; he runs wild in forests, and is of a fierce and wild temper. He can, however, be tamed; but has not yet been reduced to such a state of docility as to make him useful.

The Bison is found in Europe and Asia, but he is more common in America. In the western woods of the United States, droves of many thousands are met with by the hunters.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

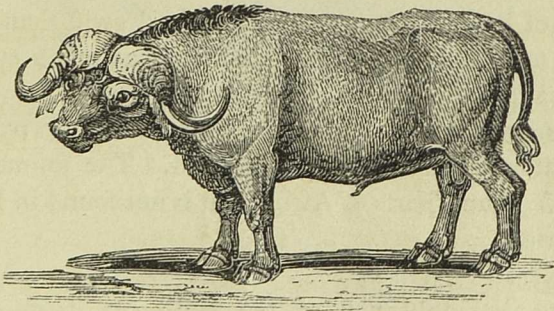
The skins of the Bison are sold as buffalo robes, and are very useful. The flesh of the animal is valued by the Indians, who hunt him as well for food as for his hide.

A young Bison, it is said, displays an affecting instance

of attachment to its mother, when the latter happens to be killed by the hunters; the young one then will not leave her, but, alarmed and trembling, follows the hunters, who are carrying away its parent.

The vast herds of Bisons in the western country, sometimes present a most astonishing spectacle. They press close together, so as to appear to be one solid mass, and then rush onward, driving before them or crushing every thing that comes in their way. It is said, that the Indians sometimes contrive to wile the herd over a precipice, and thus destroy large numbers.

THE BUFFALO.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. APPEARANCE.

THIS animal is rather larger than an ox. His form is similar, but his head is larger, and his horns are differently shaped. His colour is a very dark brown. His hair is long and rough, and his appearance is disagreeable.

HABITS. COUNTRIES.

The Buffalo is a ferocious and powerful brute, and goes in large herds. He is fond of water, and swims well. He can be tamed, and is used for ploughing and other agricultural labour in parts of Europe. The milk of the

Buffalo is also used in Italy, but it is not as good as cow's milk.

The Buffalo is a native of Asia and Africa, and runs wild in the forests and plains of those countries. It is domesticated in Europe, and in Italy serves as a substitute for the ox and cow.

THE ZEBU.

SIZE. FORM. HABITS. COLOURS. COUNTRIES.

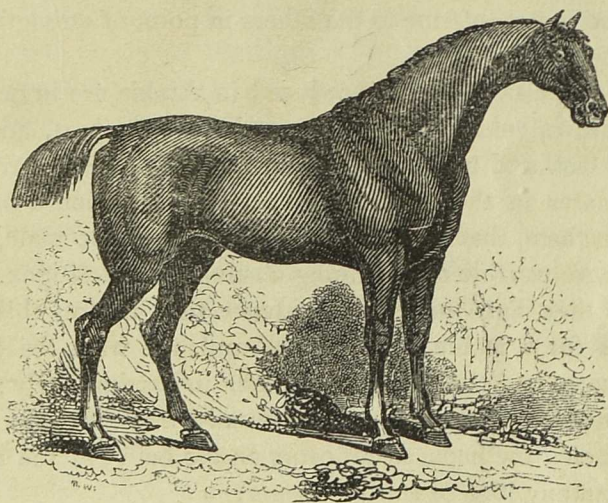
THE Zebu varies very much in size, but is generally about as large as a small cow. It is shaped like a cow, but over the shoulders it has a large bunch. This animal is used in some parts of India for draught, and for carrying burthens, instead of horses. It is more hardy and swift than a cow, and has more docility. It trots off with as much speed as a horse, and performs long journeys.

It is of different colours, like animals of the ox kind; those that are white are most esteemed. The animal runs wild in Asia and parts of Africa, but is not found in Europe or America.

I have thus told you of the Bull, Ox, Cow, Bison, Buffalo, and Zebu, all of the ox or cow kind. They all resemble each other in having a divided hoof, in living on vegetable substances, and in chewing the cud.

Animals of the Horse Kind.

THE HORSE.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. APPEARANCE.

THE height of the Horse, as is well known, is about five feet. His form is elegant, and unites strength and swiftness in a high degree. His colour is various. His appearance is noble, and when he is free and at full speed, he is truly majestic.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The noblest conquest that man ever made over the brute creation was in taming the Horse, and engaging him in his service. He lessens the labours of man, adds to his pleasures, advances or flees, with ardour and swiftness, for attack or defence; shares, with equal docility and cheerfulness, the fatigues of hunting and the dangers of war;

and draws with appropriate strength, rapidity, or grace, the heavy ploughs and carts of the husbandman, the light vehicles of the rich, and the stately carriages of the great.

The Horse is bred now in most parts of the world ; those of Arabia, Turkey, and Persia are accounted better proportioned than many others ; but the English Race-horse may justly claim the precedence over all the European breed, and he is not inferior to the others in point of strength and beauty.

The beautiful Horses produced in Arabia are in general of a brown colour ; their mane and tail very short, and the hair black and tufted. The Arabs for the most part use the mares in their ordinary excursions, experience having taught them, that they are less vicious than the male, and are more capable of sustaining abstinence and fatigue.

As they have no other residence than a tent, this also serves for a stable, and the husband, the wife, the child, the mare, and the foal, lie together indiscriminately ; and the youngest branches of the family may be often seen embracing the neck, or reposing on the body, of the mare, without any idea of fear or danger.

Of the remarkable attachment which the Arabs have for these animals, St. Pierre has given an affecting instance in his *Studies of Nature* : “ The whole stock of a poor Arabian of the desert consisted of a beautiful mare ; this the French consul at Said offered to purchase, with an intention to send her to Louis XIV.

“ The Arab, pressed by want, hesitated a long time, but at length consented, on condition of receiving a very considerable sum of money, which he named. The consul wrote to France for permission to close the bargain ; and, having obtained it, sent the information to the Arab. The man, so indigent as to possess only a miserable covering for his body, arrived with his magnificent courser ; he dismounted, and first looking at the gold, then steadfastly at his mare, heaved a sigh.

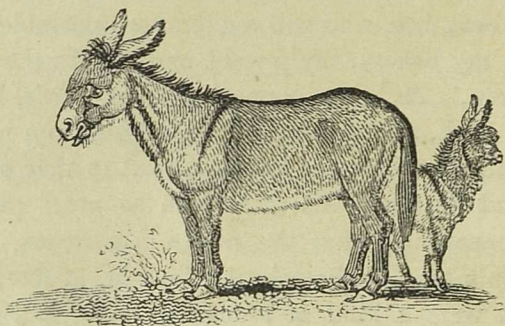
“ ‘To whom is it,’ exclaimed he, ‘ that I am going to yield thee up? To Europeans! who will tie thee close, who will beat thee, who will render thee miserable! Return with me, my beauty, my jewel! and rejoice the hearts of my children.’ As he pronounced the last words, he sprung upon her back, and was out of sight almost in a moment.”

The intelligence of the Horse is next to that of the elephant, and he obeys his rider with so much punctuality and understanding, that the native Americans, who had never seen a man on horseback, thought, at first, that the Spaniards were a kind of monstrous race, half men and half horses.

The Horse, in a domestic state, seldom lives longer than twenty years; but we may suppose, in a wild state, that he might attain double this age; and it is melancholy to think that our bad treatment has shortened the days of so noble a creature.

I cannot leave this subject without expressing my abhorrence of the cruelty with which this admirable creature is often treated. Young men frequently overdrive a Horse, and thus impair his strength during the remainder of his life; and all this, perhaps, only for display. I have often seen a Horse brutally whipped and beaten by those who better deserved the lash themselves. I cannot believe that such wanton wickedness will go unpunished. That God, who made the brute for the service of man, will not permit him to make it the sport of his wanton or wicked passions with impunity.

THE ASS.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. COUNTRIES.

THE size of the Ass is about two-thirds that of the horse. His form is similar, but his ears are larger, and his tail thinner. He is generally of a dun colour, and is found in almost all countries.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Ass is a beast of burden, and is very serviceable to mankind. Of greater strength comparatively than most animals of his size, he bears fatigue with patience, and hunger with apparent cheerfulness. A bundle of dried herbs, or a thistle on the road, will suffice him for his daily meal, and he compensates, with the clear and pure water of a neighbouring brook, in the choice of which he is particularly nice, for the want of a better fare.

The treatment, which this very useful animal often receives from his owners, is both wanton and cruel, and most ungrateful, considering the great services he renders at a little expense. When very young, the Ass is sprightly, and even tolerably handsome; but he soon loses these qualifications, either by age or ill treatment, and becomes slow, stupid, and headstrong. The female is passionately fond of her young; and it is said she will even cross fire and water to protect or rejoin it. The Ass is also sometimes

greatly attached to his owner, whom he scents at a distance, and plainly distinguishes from others in the crowd. Like some other animals, he also possesses the faculty of finding his way home when lost at a great distance. An Ass has been known to find his way from Point de Gatt to Gibraltar, a distance of more than two hundred miles, through an intricate country where he had never been before.

ANECDOTE.

An old man who, a few years ago, sold vegetables in London, used in his employment an Ass, which conveyed his baskets from door to door. Frequently he gave the poor industrious creature a handful of hay, or some pieces of bread, or greens, by way of refreshment and reward.

The old man had no need of any goad for the animal, and seldom, indeed, had he to lift up his hand to drive it on. His kind treatment was one day remarked to him, and he was asked if his beast was apt to be stubborn? "Ah! master," replied he, "it is of no use to be cruel, and as for stubbornness I cannot complain; for he is ready to do any thing, and go any where. I bred him myself.

"He is sometimes skittish and playful, and once ran away from me; you will hardly believe it, but there were more than fifty people after him, attempting in vain to stop him; yet he turned back of himself, and he never stopped till he ran his head kindly into my bosom."

THE QUAGGA.

THIS is a species of Wild Ass, found in the wilds of Africa. It lives on vegetable food, like other animals of the horse kind, and goes in large herds. Vast numbers of this animal, with the sprinkbok and hartebeest, two kinds of antelope, fall a prey to the lion.

THE ZEBRA.



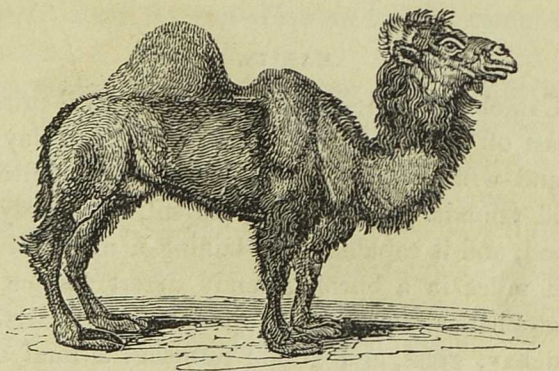
SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRY.

THE Zebra is a little larger than the ass, and resembles the horse in figure. His colour is white, with regular black stripes. He is a native of Africa. His appearance is very beautiful, and he is esteemed one of the handsomest of quadrupeds.

The Zebra feeds in the same manner as the horse, ass, and mule; and seems to delight in having clean straw and dried leaves to sleep upon. His voice can hardly be described; it is thought by some persons to have a distant resemblance to the sound of a post horn. It is more frequently heard when the animal is alone, than at other times. He is only known in a wild state.

In northern climates, as the Shetland Isles, the horse dwindles in size, and is called Pony; a name which is also used in other countries for a small-sized horse.

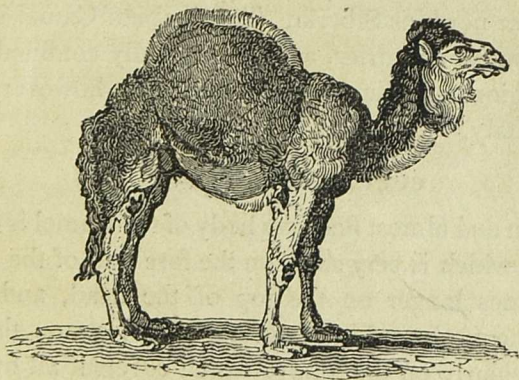
THE CAMEL.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. APPEARANCE.

THE height of the Camel is about five and a half feet; his length is about ten feet. His legs are long, his body short and large, his neck long and crooked; his head small and homely. On his back he has two bunches. He is covered with coarse hair, and his colour is generally a light brown. His feet are soft and flat, and well suited to travel in a sandy country. His appearance is awkward in the extreme; his motions are also awkward, and he walks as if in distress.

We have here described the Bactrian Camel, which is often seen in this country; the Arabian Camel, or Drome-



dary, differs but little from the other. He has but one bunch on his back, and is somewhat smaller. These two varieties possess, in general, the same character and qualities.

HABITS.

The Camel is a domestic animal, and is used principally as a beast of burthen. He travels as far in a day as the horse, and will carry a load of from five hundred to a thousand pounds. He is mild, patient, and hardy, needs little food, and is capable of sustaining a march of several hundred miles in a burning sandy desert without water. He is emphatically called "the ship of the desert." He lives on hay, grass, and grain; furnishes a kind of wool for cloth, carries his master on his back like a horse, and the females yield milk like cows. Homely and awkward then as he is, the Camel is one of the greatest blessings afforded to man.

COUNTRIES.

The Camel is a native of Asia and Africa. In most parts of Asia he takes the place of the horse and the cow. The Camel is also found at Pisa in Italy, and the vicinity, though it is much degenerated in that climate. It has also been recently introduced into South America.

The Bactrian Camel is found better suited to a cold or moist climate than the Arabian Camel, and is consequently found as far north as Siberia. The Arabian Camel is better suited to warm countries, and is generally confined to the middle regions of Asia. It is this species, however, that is found in Italy.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The lean and almost fleshless body of the Camel is covered with hair, which is very short on the fore part of the muzzle; this becomes longer on the top of the head, and almost tufty on the neck and parts of the fore legs, on the back, and particularly on the hump, which covers it all over.

The colour of the hair varies; it is either white, with a slight tint of rose-colour, gray, bay, or dark brown, approaching to black. The hair falls off, and is renewed every year, about the end of spring and the commencement of summer.

At particular seasons of the year, Camel-fights are common at Smyrna and at Aleppo. Such exhibitions are the disgrace of the vulgar, be they the high or the low vulgar, of all countries; and the lion-fights of the savage Romans, the bull-fights of Spain, the bull and badger-baitings and cock-fights of England, and the Camel-fights of Asia-Minor, are equally indications of a barbarian spirit, which can only be eradicated by knowledge and true religion.

Of these, however, the Camel-fights appear the least objectionable. The Camels of Smyrna are led out to a large plain, filled with eager crowds. They are muzzled, to prevent their being seriously injured, for their bite is tremendous—always bringing the piece out. A couple being let loose, they run at each other with extreme fury. Mr. Macfarlane thus describes this curious scene:

“One of the favourite holiday amusements of the Turks of Asia-Minor, is furnished by the Camel combats. An enclosure is made, and two Camels, previously muzzled so that they cannot hurt each other much, are driven in, and incited to fight with each other. Their mode of combat is curious; they knock their heads together, laterally, twist their long necks, wrestle with their fore legs, almost like bipeds, and seem to direct their principal attention to the throwing down of their adversary.

“During this combat, the Turks, deeply interested, will back, some one Camel and some the other; and they will clap their hands and cry out the names of their respective favourites, just as our amateurs do with the dogs, or as the Spaniards, at their more splendid and more bloody bull-fights, will echo the name of the hardy bull or the gallant *matador*.

“The pasha of Smyrna used frequently to regale the people with these spectacles in an enclosed square before his palace; and I saw them besides, once, at a Turkish wedding at the village of Bournabah, near Smyrna, and another time on some other festive occasion at Magnesia. I once, however, chanced to see a less innocent contest. This was on a plain between Mounts Sipylus and Tartalee and the town of Smyrna.

“It was a fight in downright earnest. Two huge rivals broke away from the string, and set to in spite of their drivers. They bit each other furiously, and it was with great difficulty that the drivers succeeded in separating these, at other times, affectionate and docile animals.”

Both ancient and modern authors agree tolerably well in their accounts of the load which a Camel can carry. Sandys, in his *Travels in the Holy Land*, says, “six hundred weight is his ordinary load, yet will he carry a thousand.” The caravans are distinguished as light or heavy, according to the load which the Camels bear.

The average load of the heavy, or slow-going Camel, as stated by Major Rennell, who investigated their rate of travelling with great accuracy, is from five hundred to six hundred pounds. Mr. Buckingham saw Camels carrying mill-stones to the large towns on the west of the Jordan, each of which was nearly six feet in diameter; and one, being laid flat on the animal's back, in the very centre of the hump, and resting on the high part of the saddle, was secured by cords passing under his belly.

The Camel sometimes carries large panniers filled with heavy goods; sometimes bales are strapped on his back, fastened either with cordage made of the palm-tree, or leathern thongs; and sometimes two or more will bear a sort of litter, in which women and children ride with considerable ease.

Avarice and ill temper will occasionally make the Arabs and Turks maltreat their Camels; though it is due to them

to state, that these instances are rare. The animal is usually treated with the care and kindness which his usefulness and his goodness demand. Mr. Macfarlane says, "I have been told that the Arabs will kiss their Camels in gratitude and affection, after a journey across the deserts.

"I never saw the Turks either of Asia-Minor or Roumelia, carry their kindness so far as this; but I have frequently seen them pat their Camels when the day's work was done, and talk to them on their journey, as if to cheer them. The Camels appeared to me quite as sensible to favour and gentle treatment as a good bred horse is. I have seen them curve and twist their long lithe necks as their driver approached, and often put down their tranquil heads towards his shoulder."

Again, he says, "Near Smyrna, and at Magnesia and Sardes, I have occasionally seen a Camel follow his master like a pet dog, and go down on his knees before him, as if inviting him to mount.

"I never saw a Turk ill use the useful, gentle, amiable quadruped. But I have frequently seen him give it a portion of his own dinner, when, in unfavourable places, it had nothing but chopped straw to eat. I have sometimes seen the drivers on a hot day, or in passing a dry district, spirt a little water in the Camel's nostrils; they pretend it refreshes them."

Captain Riley tells the following story of the effect of the rough movement of a large Camel: "They placed me on the largest Camel I had yet seen, which was nine or ten feet in height. The Camels were now all kneeling or lying down, and mine among the rest.

"I thought I had taken a good hold, to steady myself while he was rising; yet his motion was so heavy, and my strength so far exhausted, that I could not possibly hold on, and tumbled off over his tail, turning entirely over. I came down upon my feet, which prevented my receiving any material injury, though the shock to my frame was very severe."

Mr. Macfarlane thus describes the movement of a caravan. "The caravan, or strings of Camels, are always headed by a little ass, on which the driver sometimes rides. The ass has a tinkling bell round his neck; and each Camel is commonly furnished with a large rude bell, that produces, however, a soft and pastoral sound, suspended, not to the neck, but to the front of the pack, or saddle.

"As I have observed of the mules in Spain and Italy, they will all come to a dead stop, if these bells be removed by accident or design; and like the mules also, they always go best in a long single line, one after the other.

"We tried the experiment of the bell at Pergamos. Two stately Camels, the foremost furnished with the bell, were trudging along the road with measured steps. We detached the bell with a long stick; they halted as the sounds ceased, nor could we urge them forward until their ears were cheered with the wonted music.

"In the flat valleys of the Hermus and Caicus, I have made calculations with a watch in my hand; and have found, hour after hour, an unvarying result, the end of their journey being just at the same pace as the beginning; their pace is three miles an hour."

Burkhardt says, it is an erroneous opinion that the Camel delights in sandy ground; it is true that he crosses it with less difficulty than any other animal; but wherever the sands are deep, the weight of himself and his load makes his feet sink into the sand at every step, and he groans and often sinks under his burden. It is the hard, gravelly ground of the desert which is most agreeable to this animal.

The expense of maintaining these valuable creatures is remarkably little; a cake of barley, a few dates, a handful of beans, will suffice for their food, in addition to the hard and prickly shrubs which they find in every district but the very wildest parts of the desert. They are particularly fond of those vegetable productions, which other animals would never touch, such as plants which are like spears

and daggers, in comparison with the needles of the thistle, and which often pierce the incautious traveller's boot.

He might wish such thorns eradicated from the earth, if he did not behold the Camel contentedly browsing upon them; for he thus learns that Providence has made nothing in vain.

The Camel often travels three or four days without water, drinking fifty, sixty, or even a hundred pounds weight, when he has an opportunity; and the best Camels for transport will sometimes endure a thirst of ten or twelve days, though many of them perish under this privation. When we see what the man and the horse require in those arid countries, such a power in the Camel must appear one of the most remarkable provisions of Providence.

The manufacture of the Camel's hair into garments and tents is the only mechanical employment which gives a variety to the pastoral life of the Arabs of the desert. The hair is pulled off the animal, and spun upon a hand spindle. When a sufficient quantity is spun, and a place of pasturage is found, the people weave the yarn in a very rude manner.

It is the custom in the Mahomedan countries to make pilgrimages annually to the temple of Mecca. As the Camel sustains a very important part in these extraordinary journeys, it is proper to describe one of the pilgrim caravans.

At the present day, both the number of persons making the pilgrimage, and the splendour with which it is conducted, are greatly lessened; but the caravan still offers the same remarkable mixture of pomp and misery, of abundance and want, of superstition and licentiousness, which appears to have prevailed from the earliest times.

Not one-tenth of the caravan are real pilgrims; but the motley group is made up of the attendants of the sacred Camel, people attached to the pasha, soldiers, merchants, pedlers, camel-drivers, coffee and pipe waiters, Bedouins, and large numbers of dancing girls.

Mr. Parsons, who saw the pilgrim caravan set out from Cairo some years ago, has given the following account. The cavalcade was six hours in passing him. The Camels were arrayed in every variety of splendid trappings, laden with provisions, and clothes, and cookery apparatus, and water-skins, and tents, and artillery, and holy sheiks, and mamelukes.

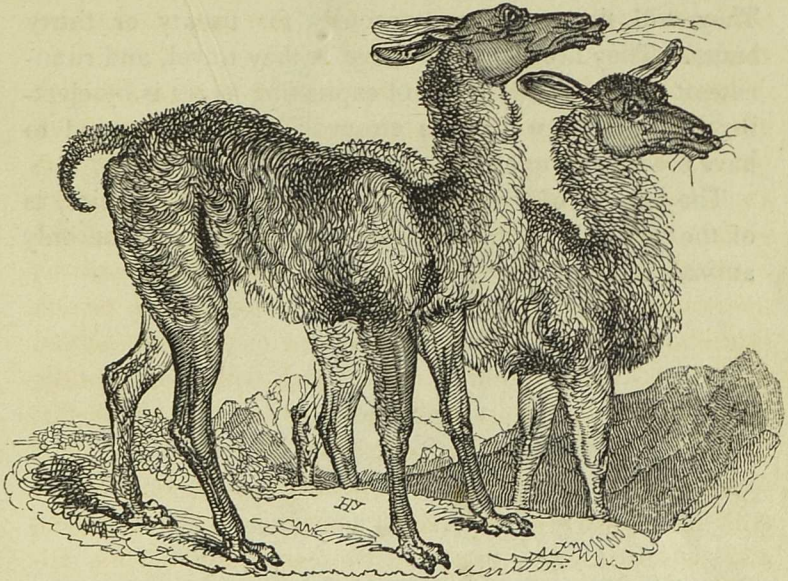
There were Camels "with two brass field-pieces each;" others "with bells and streamers;" others "with men beating kettle-drums;" others "covered with purple velvet;" others "with men walking by their sides, playing on flutes and flageolets;" others "handsomely ornamented about their necks, their bridles being studded with silver, intermixed with glass beads of all colours, and ostrich feathers on their foreheads;" and last of all "the sacred Camel, an extraordinary large Camel, with a fine bridle studded with jewels and gold, and led by two holy sheiks, in green, a square house or chapel on his back."

In addition to these Camel splendours, there were horses with every variety of caparison; mamelukes, and pikemen, and janissaries, and agas, and the commander of the pilgrimage in robes of satin, to say nothing of numberless "buffoons playing many pranks."



A HALT IN THE DESERT.

THE LLAMA.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THIS animal is four and a half feet high, and five and a half to six feet long. He resembles the camel in form, but, instead of a hump on the back, has one on the breast. His colour is white, gray, and russet, disposed in spots. When in a wild state, the hair is coarse; when domesticated, it becomes fine.

HABITS. COUNTRIES.

It is a native of the mountainous districts of Chili and Peru. In their wild state, they associate in immense herds on the highest part of the mountains, and while they are

feeding, a sentinel is stationed to give warning of any hostile intruder.

When domesticated, they are used in the manner of horses. They move at a grave pace, and will sometimes travel four or five days before they seem to require repose. They will then rest spontaneously for twenty or thirty hours. They browse the herbage as they travel, and ruminate at night. Their mode of expressing anger is by ejecting their saliva, which has erroneously been supposed to have a corrosive quality.

The Llama, of which there are two or three varieties, is of the camel kind. The Camel and Llama are the only animals of the race.



THE GIRAFFE OR CAMELOPARD.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THE Giraffe is the tallest animal known in the world, its neck alone being seven feet long, and the top of its head about seventeen feet from the ground. The body is about the size of the horse, and something similar in shape to the camel. The back is sloping from the shoulders to the tail.

The head resembles that of a horse, and is furnished with two blunt erect horns, about six inches long, and covered with a heavy skin. The neck is thin, like that of the stag, and the legs are very slender. The hide is spotted like the leopard, and, when the animal is young, is of a light red, but it becomes of a deeper colour as the age increases, and is at length of a yellow brown in the female, and of a brown approaching to black in the male. This difference of colour enables the male to be distinguished from the female at a distance.

HABITS. COUNTRIES.

The Giraffe is possessed of great strength, but it is gentle and timid. When attacked by the lion, as it sometimes is, it defends itself by kicks, which are made with great rapidity and force. It never employs its horns in resisting an attack. It runs with more speed than the horse, though it does not step so quick, and its walk is fast, but awkward. It feeds on the leaves and twigs of trees, and sometimes on grass, but not often, as the country which it inhabits has but little pasturage. It is known only in a wild state.

It inhabits the southern part of Africa, a little north-west of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope, and especially that part where a particular kind of tree is found, of which it is remarkably fond.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

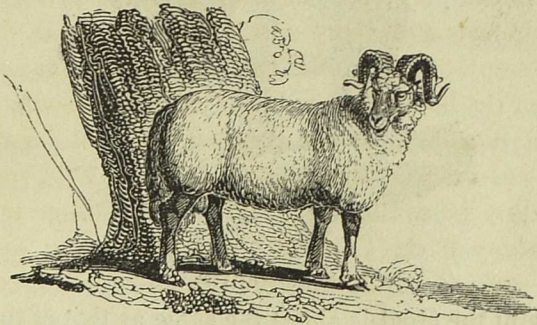
The existence of the Giraffe, which is a peculiar species of animal, was for a long time doubted, on account of its rarity. There are three of these animals now in Europe, in the menageries, but there had been none there for about three hundred and fifty years previous to the year 1727.

The manner in which the Giraffe feeds is interesting, from the singularity in the construction of its tongue. This organ not only has taste, but it has besides nearly all the powers of the proboscis of the elephant, although not possessed of the same strength. It can be extended to the length of seventeen inches, and can be so tapered as to enter the ring of a very small key. On account of its height, and the facility which the tongue has of grasping, by encircling objects, the Giraffe feeds principally on the tops of high trees.

Its mode of resting is, like most quadrupeds, on its sides; but the operation of lying down is curious and peculiar. When it sleeps it bends the neck, and rests the head on the hind quarter. The Giraffe is able to look on all sides, and is in this manner assisted in escaping from enemies.

Animals of the Sheep and Goat Kind.

THE SHEEP.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

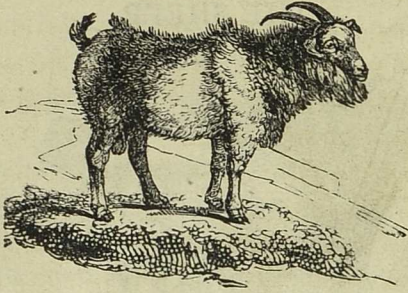
THE size and form of the Sheep are well known. Its colour is generally white, though black and spotted Sheep are not uncommon. It is exceedingly gentle, lives by grazing, and is found in almost all countries.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Sheep is one of the most useful of all animals; its flesh is excellent food, and of its wool our winter clothing is made. The finest kind of wool is produced by the breed of Sheep called Merino, which was brought from Spain, and is now common in America, and in many parts of Europe.

Although of a moderate size, and well covered, it does not live more than nine or ten years. The ram is strong and fierce, and will boldly attack a dog, and often comes off victorious: he has even been known, regardless of danger, to engage a bull; and his forehead being much harder than that of any other animal, he seldom fails to conquer; for the bull, by lowering his head, receives the stroke of the ram between his eyes.

THE GOAT.



SIZE. FORM.

THE size of the Goat is about the same as that of the sheep, though the wool of the latter gives it a larger appearance. In form, the Goat resembles the sheep, though he has a short tail, and a beard.

HABITS.

The Goat is stronger and swifter, and more sagacious and lively than the sheep. He does not easily submit to be confined, but chooses his own pastures, delights in climbing precipices, and is often seen reposing in tranquil security upon an eminence overhanging the roaring ocean. Nature has, in some measure, fitted it for traversing these declivities, the hoof being hollow underneath, with sharp edges, so that it could walk as securely on the ridge of a house as on level ground.

It leaps with the utmost ease and security among the most frightful crags; so sure-footed is it, that even when two of them are yoked together, they will not hesitate to take their leaps, and will generally accomplish them in safety.

Sensible of kindness and caresses, the Goat easily attaches itself to man: sometimes, indeed, so strongly, as to become troublesome by its affection; and as it is a hardy animal,

and very easily sustained, it is chiefly the property of the indigent.

It seems, indeed, better pleased with the heathy mountain, or the shrubby rock, than the cultivated field; and its favourite food consists of the tops of boughs, or the tender bark of young trees. It is also capable of supporting immoderate heat, and is neither terrified by the storm, nor incommoded by the rain.

The milk of the Goat is sweet, nourishing, and medicinal, and not so apt to curdle upon the stomach as that of the cow. In several parts of Ireland and the highlands of Scotland, these animals constitute the chief riches of the hardy natives, and supply them with the few indulgences which their situation permits them to enjoy. They lie upon beds made of their skins, which are soft, clean, and wholesome; they eat their milk with oaten bread; and convert a part of it into butter and cheese.

THE IBEX.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE Ibex is somewhat larger than the Goat; it is similarly formed, but its horns are much larger, being from two to four feet long. It is clothed with a thick coat of brown hair.

The Ibex assembles in flocks, which never consist of more than fifteen, and seldom of so many. It is equally agile and strong, and, when close pressed, will sometimes turn upon the incautious huntsman, and tumble him down the precipices, unless he has time to lie down, and let the creature bound over him. And if the pursuit be continued, this animal will throw himself down the steepest declivities, and fall on his horns in such a manner, as to remain unhurt. It is principally found on the Alps, the Pyrenees, and the highest mountains of Greece.

THE ANTELOPE. GAZEL.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

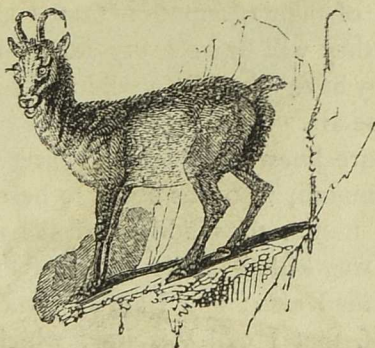
THIS animal, of which there are many varieties, is smaller than the goat. Its form is slender and graceful; its horns are spiral and twisted. The colour is brown on the back, and white under the belly.

They inhabit hot mountainous countries, and bound from rock to rock with an agility that excites astonishment in a spectator. In Africa and Asia they are very numerous. In Asia there is a species of Antelope which bears the name of Gazel, and such is the brightness and beauty of its eyes, that they furnish similes to the poet, and to call a woman "Gazel-eyed," is to pay her one of the handsomest of compliments.

This beautiful and timid creature is the prey of the jackall, lion, tiger, and other animals of the cat kind. They go in vast flocks, and where they abound the lion is sure to be lurking.

The PRONG-HORNED ANTELOPE is found in the western territories of North America, and is one of the fleetest and shyest of quadrupeds. It seems, when at full speed, to fly rather than run.

THE CHAMOIS.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THIS animal is about the size of the domestic goat, and resembles it in shape. The horns are black, slender, upright, with the tips hooked back. Its colour is a yellowish brown, the under parts being white.

This animal, which, in many respects, resembles the antelope, chiefly inhabits the Alps and Pyrenees, and is found in flocks of from four to eighty, and even a hundred. Like the antelope race, the Chamois has sparkling and animated eyes. It feeds only on the finest herbage, and its flesh is of a delicate flavour.

When alarmed, the Chamois hisses with such force that the rocks and forests reecho; the note being very sharp at first, and becoming deeper towards the close. Having paused a moment, the animal looks round, and perceiving

his apprehensions to be well founded, he again hisses with increased violence; at the same time striking the ground with his fore feet, bounding from rock to rock, and evincing the utmost agitation, till the alarm is spread to a very considerable distance, and the whole flock provide for their safety by a precipitate flight.

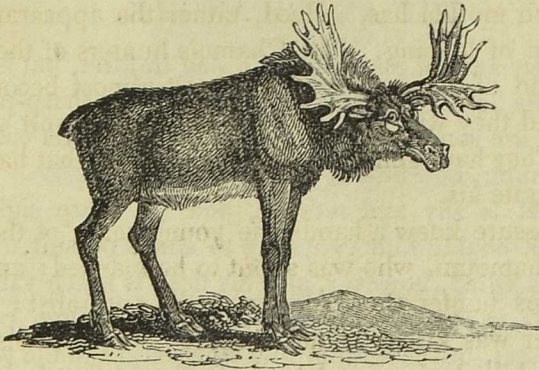
Their agility is wonderful, as they will throw themselves down across a rock, nearly perpendicular and twenty or thirty feet in height, without a single prop to support their feet. Their motion has, indeed, rather the appearance of flying than of leaping. The Chamois hunters of the Alps are so fond of their occupation that it almost becomes a mania, and they will brave every danger in pursuit of this animal. They have generally a wild and somewhat haggard and desperate air.

M. Saussure knew a handsome young man, of the district of Chamouni, who was about to be married; and the adventurous hunter thus addressed the naturalist: "My grandfather was killed in the chase of the Chamois; my father was killed also; and I am so certain that I shall be killed myself, that I call this bag, which I always carry hunting, my winding-sheet. I am sure that I shall have no other; and yet if you were to offer to make my fortune, upon the condition that I should renounce the chase of the Chamois, I should refuse your kindness." Two years afterwards he perished.

I have thus told you of some of the principal animals of the sheep and goat kind: the Sheep, Goat, Ibex, Antelope, and Chamois. I might have told you, also, of the Argali, which has a body like a deer, and horns like a sheep. All these animals resemble each other in chewing the cud, in having permanent horns, and a divided hoof. The antelope might seem more to resemble a deer than a sheep, but all animals of the deer kind shed their horns annually.

Animals of the Deer Kind.

THE MOOSE.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THE Moose, or, as this species is called in Europe, the Elk, is the largest of the deer kind, and often exceeds the largest horse in size and bulk. His form is not so handsome as that of the other species of deer. His head is large, and his horns are long and heavy, having been known to weigh over fifty pounds. His neck is short, his legs very long, and his body short and thick. The hair of the male is, at the tip, black, and within of an ash-colour; that of the female is a sandy brown, but whitish under the throat and belly.

HABITS. COUNTRIES.

The Moose feeds on the twigs, buds, and small branches of trees, and moss. He is easily tamed, although of a wild and timid disposition. In summer he lives principally near lakes and rivers, in which he delights to swim. In

winter he ranges through the forest. The flesh of the Moose, though coarse, is esteemed excellent food.

The Moose is common to both continents; it used to be seen in the New England States, but is now seldom seen so far south as Maine. It is still frequently met with in the more northern regions of North America; it exists in the northern parts of Europe and Asia, but is not common there.

THE AMERICAN ELK.

THIS stately animal resembles the stag in form, but is much larger. His horns, which rise with numerous sharp-pointed branches, are sometimes five feet in height. His colour is gray in winter, and brown in summer.

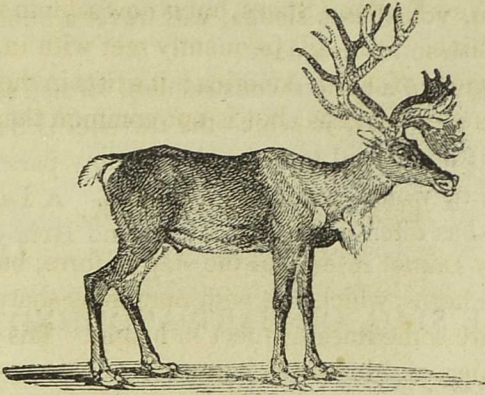
The Elk is shy and retiring, and his sharp sight and acute scent enable him generally to elude pursuit. He is sometimes killed, however, and his flesh is much valued.

The Elk is occasionally found in the northern parts of Pennsylvania, but is seldom met with except in the western country, where it is common. They are fond of the solitude and rich vegetation of the great forests, and there they chiefly live.

THE BLACK-TAILED, OR MULE DEER.

THIS animal, which is found in the plains of the Missouri, and on the western shore of North America, resembles its kind and species; it does not, however, run at full speed, but bounds along, lifting all its feet from the ground at once. It frequents the prairies, and in size exceeds the common deer.

THE REIN-DEER.



SIZE. COLOUR. FORM. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THIS animal is about three and a half feet high, and five and a half feet in length. The general colour is brown, and white under the belly. His horns are long, slender, and branching.

In summer, this animal feeds on various plants, and seeks the highest hills to avoid the gad-fly, which is very tormenting to him. In winter, he lives on moss and lichen, which he digs from the snow. He is common to the northern parts of both the eastern and western continents. In the countries of the former he is used for draught, but in America he is only regarded as game.

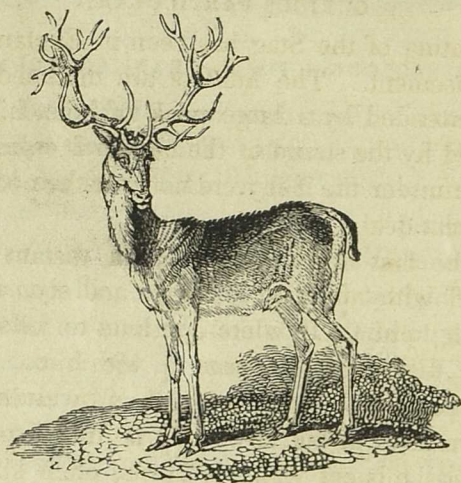
CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Rein-deer constitutes the sole wealth of the Laplanders, and supplies to them the place of the horse, the cow, the sheep, and the goat. Alive and dead, the Rein-deer is equally subservient to their wants. When he ceases to exist, spoons are made of his bones, glue of his horns, bowstrings and threads of his tendons, clothing of his skin, and his flesh becomes a savoury food.

During his life, his milk is converted into cheese, and he is employed to convey his owner over the snowy wastes of his native country. Such is the swiftness of this race, that two of them, yoked in a sledge, will travel a hundred and twelve English miles in a day.

The sledge is of a curious construction, formed somewhat in the shape of a boat, in which the traveller is tied like a child, and if attempted to be guided by any person unaccustomed to it, would instantly be overset. A Laplander, who is rich, has often more than a thousand Rein-deer.

THE STAG, OR HART AND HIND.



FORM. SIZE. COLOUR.

THE Stag has a round and handsome body; his legs are long and slender, and his head is crowned with a pair of horns, which are as ornamental as they are useful. The eyes of the Stag are peculiarly brilliant, and his sense of smelling is very acute. He is generally about three and a half feet high, and from four to six in length. His colour is reddish, and sometimes a brown or yellow.

COUNTRIES. HABITS.

The Stag is found in England and Scotland, in China, and in India. He delights in rich pasturage, and is found commonly in herds, excepting during a few months in the latter part of spring or beginning of summer, when he sheds his horns, and, as if he were conscious of his temporary weakness, hides himself till his new ones are hardened. The female, which is called a Hind, is without horns. After the Stag has completed his fifth year, he is called a Hart. He is a timid animal, and possessed of great swiftness in running. He lives sometimes to the age of forty; and has been tamed when taken young.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

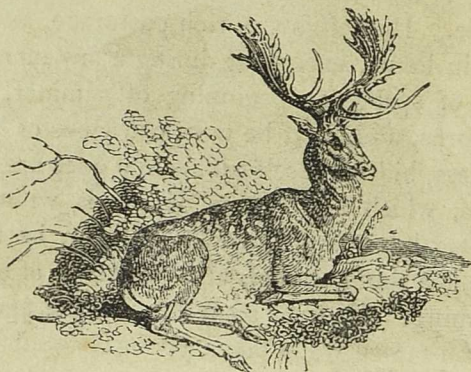
The hunting of the Stag has been in England for ages a royal amusement. The hunters are mounted on horses, and are attended by a large pack of hounds, while both are cheered by the sound of the horn. It would be a very pleasant amusement, if it were not that the poor Stag must suffer a great deal.

When he first hears the cry of the distant hounds, he bounds off with amazing rapidity, and soon is far out of their reach; but the hunters continue to follow the dogs, who scent, till they again come up with him.

He again starts off, but at length if he does not escape entirely, he is tired out, and then he turns upon the dogs, and defends himself with his horns, often killing several of them. He is finally overpowered by them, or by the hunters who come up and assist.

The Stag uses several methods to escape when pursued; sometimes he endeavours to mix with other deer, and thus to bewilder the hounds in their scent; and, when fatigued in the chase, often throws himself into a pond of water, or swims across a river, and, when caught, he sheds tears like a child. His flesh is excellent food, and his horns are useful for many purposes.

THE FALLOW DEER.

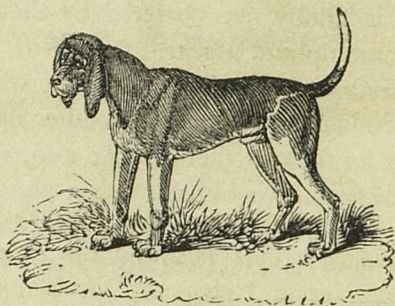


SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTIES.

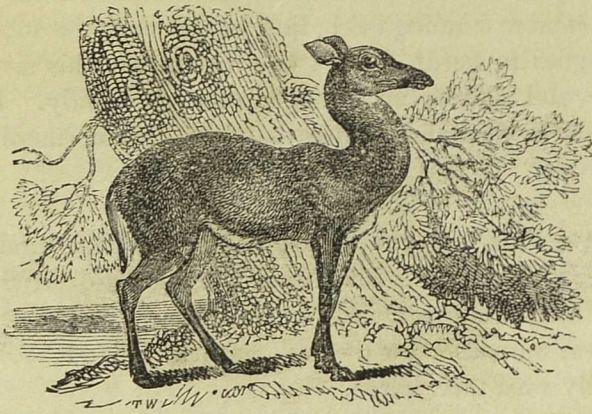
THE Fallow Deer is not so large as the stag, but closely resembles it, both in form and colour. In its habits, it likewise resembles the stag, but will never herd with it; on the contrary, great enmity exists between the two.

In England, they are seldom found in a wild state, but are generally kept for the luxury of the rich. It is common to see large herds of them in the parks of the great, in a state of domesticity like that of sheep.

Dissensions about pasturage frequently occur amongst a herd of Fallow Deer; on such occasions it divides into two parts, and commences an engagement for the disputed land, which the victorious party ever after retain.

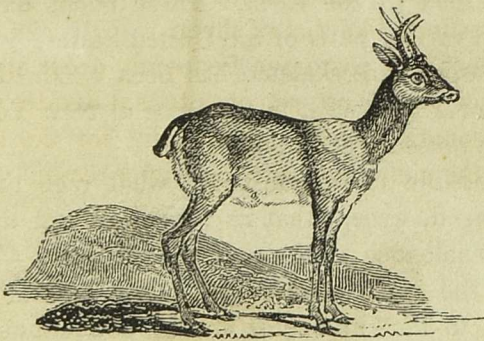


THE VIRGINIA DEER.



THIS is the common Deer of America, of which there are several varieties. It is found in all parts of North America, and in the northern parts of South America. It is a species of fallow deer, and answers in general to the preceding description. It is very abundant in some parts of the United States.

THE ROEBUCK.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRY.

THE Roebuck is the smallest of the deer race; his height being but two and a half feet, and his length three feet. His form is slender and elegant; his horns six or eight

inches in length, divided into three branches toward the extremity. There are two kinds, the red and brown.

He is more cunning in eluding pursuit than the stag, and never goes in herds. Each one resides with his favourite female and admits no stranger into his family. He is common in Scotland, and is found in other northern parts of Europe.

I have thus told you of animals of the deer kind: the Moose, the American Elk, Mule Deer, Rein-deer, Stag or Red Deer, Fallow Deer, Virginia Deer, and Roebuck. All these animals chew the cud, have a divided hoof, and annually shed their horns.

THE GIGANTIC MASTODON, MAMMOTH.

THIS animal, which must have been many times larger than the elephant, is now extinct, and all that remains to attest its former existence are the bones which are found deeply imbedded in the earth. These bones have been discovered in various parts of the United States, but as yet only one nearly entire skeleton has been obtained. This was dug up near Newburg, in the State of New York, and is now in the museum at Philadelphia.

It is impossible to determine to what race this huge animal belonged, except that its formation and modes of living were analogous to those of the elephant. That he was not of the same species is probable; that he was nearly allied to the rhinoceros and hippopotamus is also probable.

The bones of prodigiously large animals of the elephant kind have been found in Siberia; and, in one instance, a perfect animal was found preserved in a mass of ice. Those of the Mastodon have been found in various parts of Eu-

rope. The following striking observations on this subject are by Dr. Godman.

“ The emotions experienced, when for the first time we behold the giant relics of this great animal, are those of unmingled awe. We cannot avoid reflecting on the time when this huge frame was clothed with its peculiar integuments, and moved by appropriate muscles; when the mighty heart dashed forth its torrents of blood through vessels of enormous caliber, and the Mastodon strode along in supreme dominion over every other tenant of the wilderness.

“ However we examine what is left to us, we cannot help feeling that this animal must have been endowed with a strength exceeding that of other quadrupeds, as much as it exceeded them in size; and looking at its ponderous jaws, armed with teeth peculiarly formed for the most effectual crushing of the firmest substances, we are assured that its life could only be supported by the destruction of vast quantities of food.

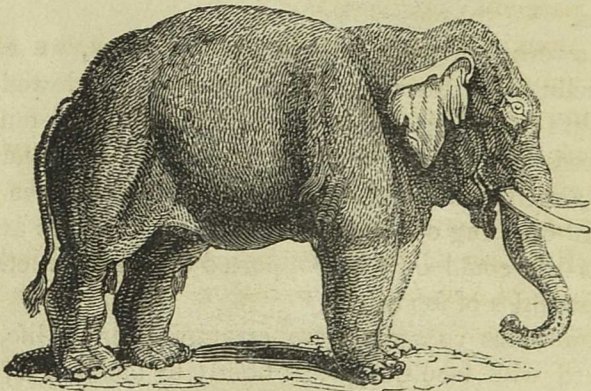
“ Enormous as were these creatures during life, and endowed with faculties proportioned to the bulk of their frames, the whole race has been extinct for ages. No tradition nor human record of their existence has been saved, and but for the accidental preservation of a comparatively few bones, we should never have dreamed that a creature of such vast size and strength once existed, nor could we have believed that such a race had been extinguished for ever.

“ Such, however, is the fact; ages after ages have rolled away, empires and nations have arisen, flourished, and sunk into irretrievable oblivion, while the bones of the Mastodon, which perished long before the periods of their origin, have been discovered, scarcely changed in colour, and exhibiting all the marks of perfection and durability.

“ That a race of animals so large, and consisting of so many species, should become entirely and universally

extinct, is a circumstance of high interest; for it is not with the Mastodon as with the elephant, which still continues to be a living genus, although many of its species have become extinct; the entire race of the Mastodon has been utterly destroyed, leaving nothing but the ‘mighty wreck’ of their skeletons, to testify that they once were among the living occupants of this land.”

THE ELEPHANT.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THIS animal is the largest of quadrupeds; his height is from eight to fourteen feet; his length is ten to fifteen feet. His form resembles that of a hog; his eyes are small and lively; his ears are broad, long, and pendulous. He has two large tusks, and a trunk or proboscis at the extremity of the nose, which he uses to take his food with, and, in case of necessity, for attack or defence. His legs are thick and long, and his feet are divided into five rounded toes. His colour is a dark ash brown. There are Elephants, however, of a white or cream colour.

HABITS. COUNTRIES.

The Elephant, in a state of nature, is neither fierce nor mischievous. It is peaceable, mild, and brave; and exerts

its powers only in its own defence, or in defence of those of its own kind; with which it is social and friendly.

Elephants often assemble in large troops; and as they march, which is mostly in quest of food, the forests seem to tremble under them. In their passage they bear down the branches of trees; which, together with roots, herbs, and leaves, are their common food; they have no objection, however, to grain and fruit, but will not eat either fish or flesh. In a state of captivity they will drink ale, wine, and spirituous liquors; for which, indeed, they seem to have a particular predilection.

The young Elephant is thirty years old before it attains its full growth. It sucks with its trunk. When the dam wants to cross a river with her young, she takes it up in her trunk, and carries it safely over. The Elephant often crosses rivers, and floats in the water, only putting the point of his trunk above the top.

The Elephant is found in both Asia and Africa. In many parts of Asia they are trained to carry burthens, and are made extensively useful.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

Elephants are caught by a regular kind of stratagem, in which art the natives in India are very expert; when once tamed, they are the most gentle, obedient, and patient, as well as the most docile and sagacious of all quadrupeds. Their attachment to their masters is remarkable; and they seem to live but to serve and obey them.

They know their voices, and also whether they speak in anger or in good humour, and regulate their actions accordingly. They will caress those with whom they are acquainted; and are quickly taught to kneel down to receive their riders, or any load which they have to carry.

The common pace or walk of the Elephant is not quicker than that of a horse; but when pushed, it assumes a kind of ambling pace, which in fleetness is nearly equal to a

gallop; but it has great difficulty in turning, and, therefore, requires a pretty large circuit for the purpose.

This animal, if not the most useful, is one of the most wonderful displays in the brute creation; being, as an eminent author expresses himself, "A monster of matter, and a miracle of intelligence."

ANECDOTES.

The anecdotes of the Elephant are numerous and interesting. I have room only to tell you a few.

A painter was desirous of drawing an Elephant in an unusual attitude, with his trunk erect and his mouth open; and, in order to induce the beast to show himself to more advantage, engaged a person to stand by, and throw fruit into his mouth. The person, however, partly to amuse himself, and partly to deceive the unsuspecting animal, often kept in his hand the fruit which he pretended to give to the Elephant; who, not liking the mockery, and supposing the innocent painter to be the cause, threw out of his trunk such a quantity of water upon his paper, as entirely spoiled his sketch, and prevented him from proceeding in his work.

Some years ago, an Elephant was passing a tailor's workshop, and seeing part of the window open, put the end of his trunk within the room; upon which one of the tailors, wishing to have a little sport at the expense of the harmless brute, pricked the trunk with his needle. The animal, resolving to avenge this unprovoked insult, went in search of some dirty water, which he soon found, and with which he filled his trunk; then returned to the shop, and, finding the window open, as before, directed his trunk to the open part, and spouted out the contents upon the offender and his companions, who no doubt had enjoyed the shop-board prank; and then took his farewell, leaving the poor drenched tailors to reflect upon the justness of the revenge.

A soldier of Pondicherry, who frequently carried to an Elephant a certain measure of arrack, being one day a little intoxicated, and seeing himself pursued by the guard, whose orders, he knew, were to conduct him to prison, took refuge under the Elephant. The guard, soon finding his retreat, attempted in vain to take him from his asylum; for the Elephant vigorously defended him with his trunk. As soon as the soldier became sober, and saw himself placed under such an unwieldy animal, he was so terrified that he scarcely dared to move either hand or foot; but the Elephant soon caused his fears to subside, by caressing him with his trunk, and thus tacitly saying, "Depart in peace."

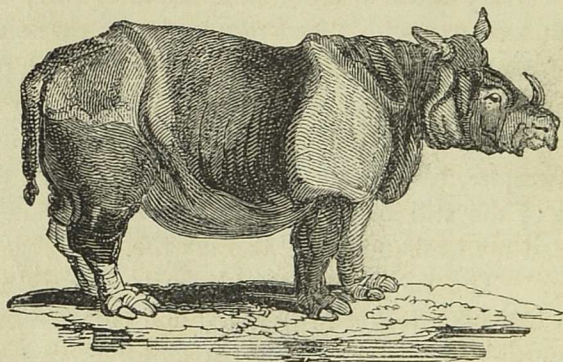
An Elephant had been revenged on his cornac, or leader, by killing him. The wife of the cornac, who witnessed the catastrophe, took her two children, and threw them at the feet of the still furious animal, saying, "Since thou hast killed my husband, take also my life, and that of my children." The Elephant stopped short, grew calm, and, as if he had been moved with regret and compassion, took with his trunk the largest of the two children, placed it on his neck, adopted him for his cornac, and would have no other leader.

Mr. Hervey, having occasion to purchase an Elephant, was offered a most majestic one, in point of size, at a very low price; but he declined the bargain, on account of a wound the creature had received in the trunk. It hung down, as if incapable of motion, and had lost the power of suction, and of grasping; consequently, the poor Elephant was deprived of the power of procuring his own subsistence, and was wholly dependent on the attention of others. In this pitiable situation, one of its own species, a male Elephant, sympathized in its distress, compassionated its sufferings, and constantly prepared for it bunches of grass, fresh leaves, &c., and put them into its mouth.

I was one day, says a writer, feeding the Elephant at Exeter 'Change with potatoes, which he took out of my

hand. One of them, a round one, fell on the floor, just out of the reach of his proboscis. He leaned against his wooden bar, put out his trunk, and could just touch the potatoe, but could not pick it up. After several ineffectual efforts, he at last blew the potatoe against the opposite wall, with sufficient force to make it rebound; and he then, without difficulty, secured it.

THE RHINOCEROS.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR.

THE length of the Rhinoceros is about twelve feet; his height from six to seven feet. He is next the elephant in size, and his bulk is actually not much less.

Its head is furnished with a horn, growing from the snout, sometimes three feet and a half long; and, but for this, that part would have the appearance of the head of a hog; the upper lip, however, is much longer in proportion, ends in a point, is very pliable, and serves to collect its food, and deliver it into the mouth. The ears are large, erect, and pointed.

The eyes are small and piercing, the skin is naked, rough, knotty, and lying upon the body in folds, after a very peculiar fashion; there are two folds very remarkable, one above the shoulders, and another over the rump; the

skin, which is of a dirty brown colour, is so thick as to turn the edge of a sword, and to resist a musket ball; the legs are short, strong, and thick; and the hoofs are divided into three parts, each pointing forward.

COUNTRIES. HABITS.

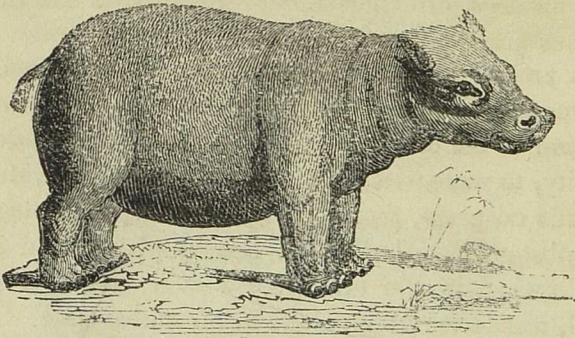
This animal is found in the deserts of Africa and Asia. His strength is prodigious. He fights with the horn on his nose, and in the battles that he is said, though on doubtful authority, to wage with the elephant, is generally victorious. He feeds on grass, thorns, twigs of trees, and other vegetable substances. He lives in marshy places, and is fond of wallowing in the mire like a hog. He is a solitary animal, wandering about alone in his native state.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Rhinoceros, which was shown at London in 1793, and described by Dr. Parsons, had been sent from Bengal. Though it was very young, not being above two years old, yet the charge of his carriage and food from India cost nearly a thousand pounds. It was fed with rice, sugar, and hay; it was daily supplied with seven pounds of rice, mixed with three of sugar, divided into three portions; it was given great quantities of hay and grass, which it chiefly prefers; its drink was water, which it took in great quantities.

It was of a gentle disposition, and permitted itself to be touched and handled by all visitors, never attempting mischief, except when abused, or when hungry; in such a case, there was no method of appeasing its fury, but by giving it something to eat. When angry, it would jump up against the walls of its room with great violence; it made many efforts to escape, but seldom attempted to attack its keeper, and was always submissive to his threats. It had a peculiar cry, somewhat a mixture between the grunting of a hog and the bellowing of a calf.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS, OR RIVER HORSE.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRY.

THE Hippopotamus is about ten or eleven feet in length, and five feet high. His form is ill proportioned, his legs being very short and thick, and his body large, round, and clumsy. His head is large, his mouth extremely wide, and his eyes and ears are small. His skin is sleek, and covered with short and soft hair, of a mouse colour. In size, he is only inferior to the rhinoceros and elephant.

He lives on land, as well as in the water. He goes on shore to graze, more frequently in the night than in the day, and feeds on sugar-canes, rushes, rice, &c., of which he eats great quantities. When hunted, he retreats to the river, plunges in, and sinks to the bottom, and is seen walking on the bottom at ease. He is obliged to rise to the surface occasionally, in order to breathe. He inhabits the rivers of Africa, principally from the Niger to the rivers near the Cape of Good Hope.

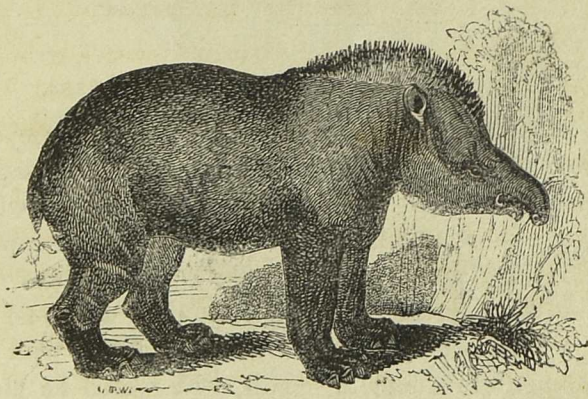
CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Hippopotamus is hunted by the natives of Africa, who are very fond of his flesh. When attacked, he is

easily enraged, and it is considered by the Hottentots dangerous to meet him at any time out of the water. He is sometimes caught in pits dug for the purpose; but the more common method of taking him is to cut the cords of one of his legs, and thus render him unable to escape the numerous hunters that come up and attack him.

The Hippopotamus possesses great strength; he has been known to bite a large piece out of a boat, so as to sink it immediately. This animal once rose under a boat rowed by six men, and lifted it up so high that the boat was upset, and the men were thrown into the water, and only saved themselves by swimming.

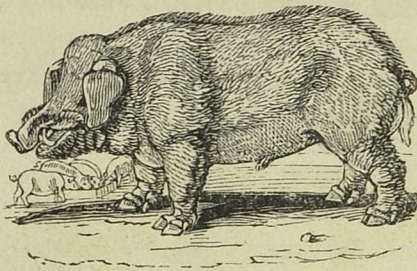
THE TAPIR.



THE Tapir is about the size of a small cow, has a thick, clumsy body, a slightly arched back, and short bulky legs. Its hair is of a dusky or brownish colour. In its habits, it bears considerable resemblance to the hippopotamus, but it is much smaller. The nose of the male is lengthened into a kind of proboscis, which it uses to grasp its food, and to convey it to its mouth, and with it can pick up the smallest objects from the ground. In the water the Tapir is exceedingly active, and swims and dives with wonderful

facility. Though courageous and formidable, if provoked, the Tapir is naturally gentle, and if caught when young may be rendered domestic. These animals are found in considerable numbers from the isthmus of Darien to the river Amazons.

THE HOG. WILD BOAR.



FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE neck of the Hog is strong and brawny, the eyes are small and placed high in the head, the snout is long, and the power of smelling acute. His general form is unwieldy; his legs are short, and he therefore does not move rapidly.

The Wild Boar, from which the other varieties of the Hog kind have sprung, is smaller than the domestic Hog, and of a black or brown colour. He is armed with sharp tusks, sometimes a foot in length, with which he ploughs the earth in search of roots, and defends himself from his enemies, often inflicting severe wounds.

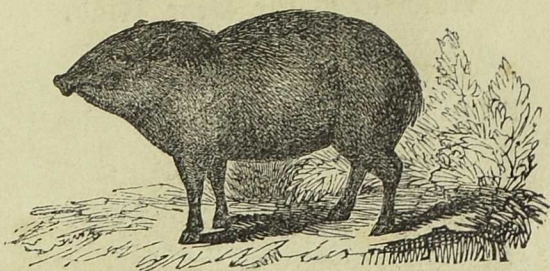
The Wild Boar is more sagacious and cleanly than the Hog. One of the principal amusements of the gentlemen, in those countries where he is found, is that of hunting him. When pressed by the hunters, he undauntedly turns upon them.

No animal has greater sympathy for those of his own kind than the Hog. The moment one of them gives a signal of distress, all within hearing rush to his assistance.

They have been known to gather round a dog that teased them, and kill him on the spot. He is found in almost all countries.

In the island of Minorca, Hogs are made use of for draught; a cow, a sow, and two young horses have been there seen yoked together, and, of the four, the sow drew the best. The ass and the Hog are in the same island frequently yoked together for ploughing. In England, a Hog has been taught to point game like a dog.

THE PECCARY, OR MEXICAN HOG.



THE Peccary has striking differences from the common hog, although it resembles that animal in many particulars. The body and legs are similar, but not so bulky; the bristles are thicker and stronger, and he exudes from his back a liquor of a strong musky smell. He has no tail.

These animals are numerous in all parts of South America, where they are frequently seen in herds of several hundreds together, grazing among the woods. They seem partial to the mountainous parts of the country, and subsist upon wild fruits, roots, and herbage.

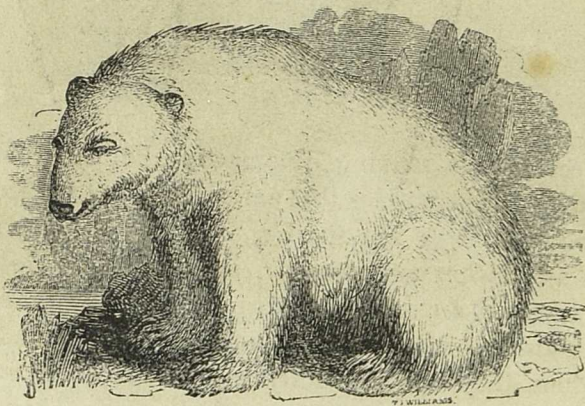
When domesticated, they appear inoffensive; but an attack is always resisted; and the females, when robbed of their young, become furious. Upon these occasions, the whole herd unite and pursue the plunderer, and if he have the good fortune to elude their vengeance by climbing a

tree, they will assemble round the root, and remain there for hours together, their rough bristles standing erect, and their eyes flaming with rage. The Peccary may be tamed, and then appears much like the common hog.

I have thus told you of the Mammoth, Elephant, Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, Tapir, Hog, and Peccary; all of them being generally classed together, as possessing many points of resemblance.

Animals of the Bear Kind.

THE WHITE, OR POLAR BEAR.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. COUNTRIES. HABITS.

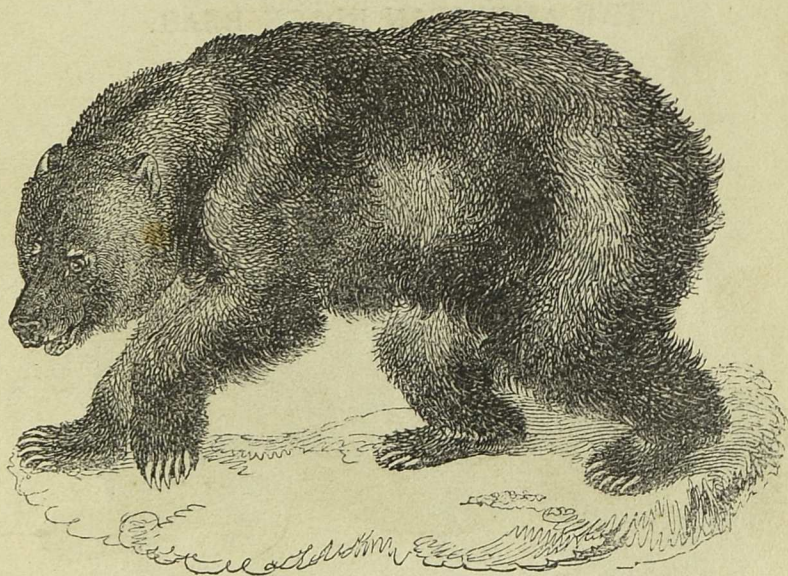
THE length of this animal is about nine feet, and his height a little more than four. He has a long nose, short ears, large legs, and a short tail. His body and neck are long, and he has five sharp claws on each foot. His colour is a yellowish white; his hair long and shaggy.

This animal inhabits Greenland and Lapland, and is

found as far north as eighty degrees. He lives on fish and seals, and the bodies of whales, which are thrown ashore, or which he finds by swimming in the sea. He reigns, in undisputed sovereignty among the brutes, over the cold and desolate regions where he dwells.

There was a White Bear recently exhibited in Boston. When his keeper directed him to show how to break ice, he would rise on his hind legs, and stamp with his fore feet, very forcibly, on the bottom of his cage.

THE GRIZZLY BEAR.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE length of this animal is probably about seven feet, and his height four and a half feet; his ears are short and rounded; the forehead convex; his eyes small; the tail short and concealed by hair; the claws, of which there are five on each foot, are long and hooked. His hair is long, and generally almost black, with a mixture of white.

The Grizzly Bear does not climb trees, like the brown and black bear. He is ferocious and bloodthirsty, and such is his strength that he can master a bison, and drag him to his retreat. He is by far the most sanguinary and dangerous brute of North America. He unhesitatingly pursues both men and animals; and, though he feeds on flesh, he is capable of subsisting upon roots and fruits. He is very tenacious of life, and will pursue his enemy after having received repeated mortal wounds. He is at present only found in the eastern vicinity of the Rocky Mountains.

THE AMERICAN BLACK BEAR.



SIZE. FORM. HABITS.

THIS animal is about three feet high, and his length about four and a half or five feet. His feet are long, and are crowned with five claws each. His body is short, his legs long, his head large, his nose sharp, and his eyes small. His hair is long, soft, and woolly.

His food is chiefly fruits, such as acorns, chestnuts, grapes, and corn; but when hungry he will feed on flesh, and attack other animals with courage and fierceness. He climbs trees, and uses his paws like hands. In winter he retires to his den, which is usually a hollow in some decayed tree, where he lies in a torpid state till spring. Though of a wild disposition, he can be tamed, and taught various tricks, in which he displays a good deal of sagacity and docility. He is a native of the northern parts of both continents. The pursuit of this animal is a matter of the first importance to some of the Indian tribes, and is never undertaken without much ceremony.

THE BROWN BEAR.

THE Brown Bear, in size, form, and habits, resembles the black bear. It is not, however, found in America.



THE RACCOON.



SIZE. COLOUR. COUNTRIES.

THE Raccoon is about two feet long, and the top of the back is about a foot from the ground. The head resembles that of a fox, but the nose is prolonged considerably beyond the upper jaw, and, being very flexible, it enables the animal to examine every little crevice or hole, which it is not backward in doing whenever an opportunity offers. The general colour of the body is a blackish gray.

Raccoons are found throughout the whole of North America, and they still continue to be numerous in many of the well peopled parts of the United States. They are also found in several parts of the West Indies. They are generally hunted in the night with dogs.

HABITS. CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

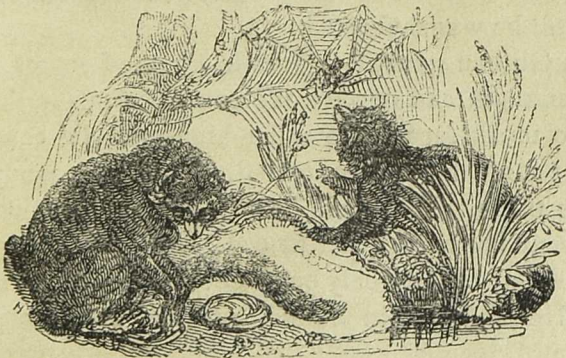
Raccoons feed on sugar-cane, maize, and various fruits, and whenever they can enter a poultry-yard they destroy

the fowls in great numbers, eating only the head, or sucking the blood which flows from the neck.

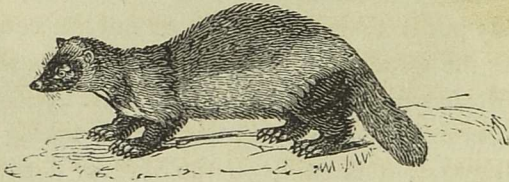
When near the shores of the ocean, they live much on shell-fish. They watch the opening of the shell, when they dexterously put in their paw, and tear out the contents, but sometimes the oyster suddenly closes, and detains the thief till he is drowned by the return of the tide.

They also exhibit much cunning in the taking of crabs. They will stand, it is said, on the side of a swamp, and hang their tail over into the water; which the crabs, mistaking for food, lay hold of; and as soon as the animals feel them pinch, they pull them out with a sudden jerk. They then devour them, being careful to get them cross-ways in their mouth, lest they should suffer from their nippers.

When tamed, which is easily done, the Raccoon is good-natured and sportive, but is almost constantly in motion, and as mischievous and inquisitive as a monkey, examining every thing with his paws, which he uses as hands to lay hold of whatever is given him, and to carry meat to his mouth. He has a great antipathy to sharp and harsh sounds.



THE GLUTTON.



SIZE. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE Glutton is about two and a half feet long; its legs are very short, but this defect is compensated by the claws, which are admirably adapted for climbing trees, and grasping its prey. The colour is a reddish brown, but along the back it is of a shining black.

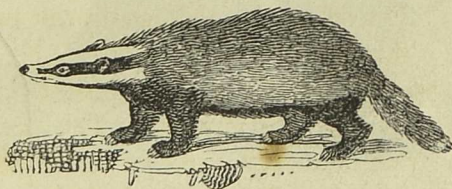
The Glutton feeds on hares, mice, birds; and it derives its name from its voracious appetite. The strength of this animal is so great, that three stout greyhounds are scarcely able to overcome him. When attacked, he makes a stout resistance; will even tear the stock from a gun with his teeth, or break the trap in pieces in which he is confined. On one occasion, a Glutton, that was put into the water, had two dogs let loose at him: he soon fixed his claws into the head of one of his enemies, and held him under the water till he was suffocated.

The Glutton sometimes goes in quest of snares laid for other animals, and devours the game he finds in them; he has too much sagacity to suffer himself to be caught. If taken young, he can be tamed, and taught many entertaining tricks. The fur is held in great estimation for its softness and beauty. The Kamtschadales esteem it so highly, that they say the heavenly beings wear garments of no other fur. He is found in Siberia and the northern parts of Europe.

THE
WOLVERENE, OR AMERICAN GLUTTON.

THIS animal resembles the preceding in most respects; he is, however, stronger and fiercer, and is an overmatch for any beast of his size. He is said to offer an effectual resistance to the wolf and bear. His eagerness to possess himself of food is very great, and the sagacity as well as strength that he sometimes displays are remarkable. In one instance, he overset the greatest part of a pile of wood, in Hudson's Bay, which contained a whole winter's firing, to get at some provisions which had been concealed there.

THE BADGER.



SIZE. COLOUR. COUNTRIES.

THE Badger is commonly from two feet to two feet and a half long. The body is thick, the legs are short, but muscular, and the fore feet are provided with claws; this enables it to burrow in the ground with great celerity even in a hard soil. On the upper part the Badger is of a uniform gray colour, and on the under parts wholly black.

This animal is found in almost all the temperate parts of Europe and Asia, and, in America, principally in the western parts of the United States.

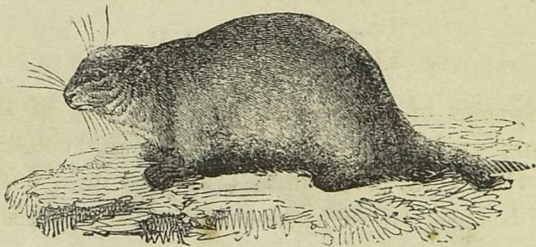
The American Badger is smaller than the European, and is marked by several other slight differences.

HABITS.

Badgers generally live in pairs, and reside in woody places, in the clefts of rocks, and in burrows which they

form under ground. They continue in their habitations during the day, and do not appear abroad till evening. During the severe weather of winter, they remain in a state of torpidity, sleeping on a bed of dried grass. Fruits of different sorts, frogs, insects, and most probably any small animals, to be procured, constitute their food. They are inoffensive, but possess much courage and address when attacked. Their skin is so thick and loose that the teeth of a dog can make but little impression upon the animal.

THE MARMOT, OR ALPINE RAT.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THIS animal is about sixteen inches long, and bears some resemblance both to the rat and the hare. The head is rather large, and flat; the ears short, and concealed by the fur, and the tail thick and bushy. The colour of the body is brownish above, and bright tawny on the under parts.

This animal feeds on vegetables, and, when taken young, is easily tamed. It is an inoffensive animal, and seems to bear enmity to no creature but the dog. He will often walk on his hinder legs, and use his fore paws to feed himself like the squirrel. They form their burrows on the sides of mountains, and have two openings. These burrows are shaped like the letter Y, laid on its side, thus \curvearrowright . They remain in a torpid state during winter.

When a number of Marmots are feeding together, one of them stands sentinel upon some high spot, and upon the

first appearance of a man, a dog, an eagle, or any dangerous animal, he utters a loud and shrill cry, as a signal for immediate retreat.

The Marmot inhabits the highest regions of the Alps, and is likewise found in Poland and Tartary.

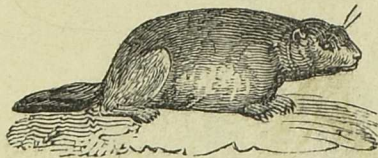
THE MARYLAND MARMOT, WOODCHUCK, OR GROUND HOG.

THIS animal resembles the preceding, but is rather smaller, and is of a gray colour. He is very common in the Middle and Eastern States.

THE PRAIRIE DOG.

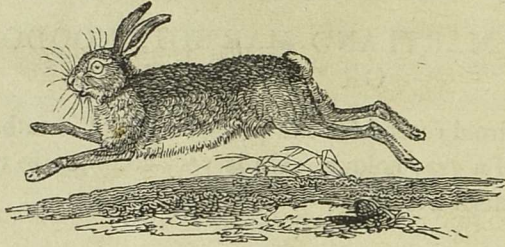
THIS species of marmot is about the size of the Alpine marmot; his head is white, and his general colour a reddish gray. He is a sprightly animal, and is called Wishton-wish by the Indians, as this name, spoken sharply, sounds like his cry.

He is found in great multitudes in the western prairies, and a collection of the little mounds of earth, that lie at the mouths of his burrow, is called a Prairie Dog village.



Animals of the *Vare* Kind.

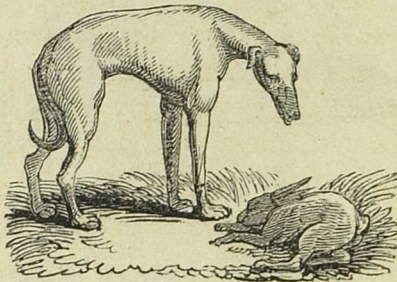
THE HARE.



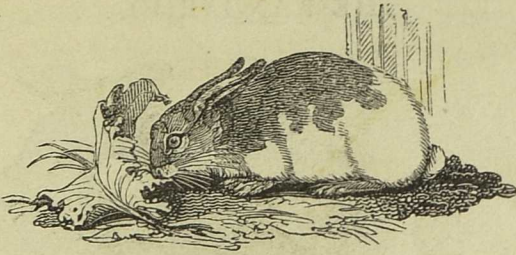
SIZE. FORM. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE size of the Hare is about that of a large cat; his ears are very long; his fore legs short, his hind ones long; his tail very short. He is very timid, and runs with great swiftness. He lives on grass and fruit, and chews the cud. He is easily tamed, and is very amusing. Cowper has given an exceedingly amusing account of three tame Hares which were long in his possession. His flesh is excellent food.

The Hare is found in both Europe and America; the species in the latter country varying, in some respects, from the European Hare. The hunting of this timid creature is a favourite sport among the gentry of England, where it is called coursing.



THE RABBIT.



SIZE. FORM. COUNTRIES.

THE Rabbit is rather smaller than the hare, but resembles him very much in figure and habits. There is, however, a strong enmity between the two races. Rabbits are often tamed, and live about the house like other domestic animals. They are abundant in Europe and America.

THE GUINEA-PIG.



FORM. SIZE. HABITS. COLOUR. COUNTRIES.

THIS animal is of the rabbit kind, and resembles the rabbit in appearance and habits. It is smaller, however, and is marked with white, black, and orange colours. It has no tail. It is a very neat animal, and spends much of its time in smoothing and cleaning the fur of its companions. It seems to be destitute of attachment, and will suffer its young to be destroyed without resistance. Many of them are kept in a domestic state in various countries. It is, however, a native of Brazil.

THE KANGAROO.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRY.

THE body of the Kangaroo is about four feet in length ; its fore legs are very short ; its hind ones very long. Its tail is nearly as long as its body, and its strength is such, that a stroke of it will break a man's leg. It moves by great leaps or bounds of twelve to twenty feet. It is covered with a short soft fur, of a reddish ash-colour. It feeds on vegetables, and has a pouch for its young, like the opossum. It is found in all parts of New Holland.

Mr. Cunningham, a recent traveller, thus speaks of this animal : " The Kangaroos make no use of the short fore legs, except in grazing. When chased, they hop upon their hind legs, bounding onward at a most amazing rate, the tail wagging up and down as they leap, and serving them for a balance. They will bound over gulleys and

deep declivities, the distance of thirty yards, and fly right over the tops of low brush wood."

There are several varieties of this animal ; one of which, called the Rat Kangaroo, is only the size of a rabbit.

THE OPOSSUM.

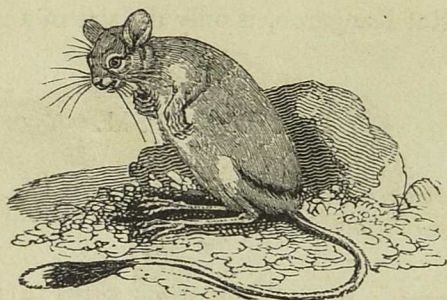


SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRY.

THIS animal is about the size of a badger, and is provided with a pouch, in which the young ones are carried, and into which they are received on the approach of danger. Its covering is a coat of long fur, of a dingy white colour.

It feeds upon fish, birds, and vegetables. Its tail is very muscular, and by this it hangs on trees, swings itself from branch to branch, and watches its prey, letting itself fall upon its victim with great precision. Its hind feet are formed something like hands, by which it is enabled to climb with wonderful facility. It is a native of Virginia.

THE JERBOA.

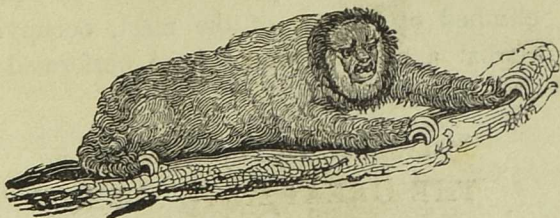


SIZE. FORM. HABITS. COUNTRY.

THIS animal is about the size of a house rat, and resembles the opossum in figure. It is very active, moves by leaps or jumps, burrows like a rabbit, and feeds like a squirrel. It is a native of Egypt and the adjacent countries.

“The motions of the Jerboa are similar to those of the kangaroo. It goes forward very nimbly on its hind feet, taking leaps of five or six feet from the ground; but, instead of proceeding straight forward, it jumps first to one side and then to the other. Such is its agility that even a greyhound can with difficulty kill it. It is a lively, harmless animal, lives entirely on vegetables, and burrows in the ground like a rabbit. The excavations which it forms are many yards long, oblique and winding, but not more than half a yard from the surface of the ground. It is fond of warmth, making its nest of the finest and most delicate herbage; and seems sensible of the approach of bad weather by wrapping itself up close in hay, with its head between its thighs. It sleeps during winter without nutriment. The Jerboa breeds several times in the summer, and usually brings forth seven or eight young ones at a litter. The flesh is reckoned one of the greatest of delicacies by the Arabs.”

THE SLOTH, OR SLUGGARD.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. COUNTRIES.

THERE are two kinds of the Sloth, distinguished from each other by the number of their toes; one having three, and the other two. The first kind is about the size of a cat; the body is thick, the fore legs long, and the hinder ones considerably shorter. The general appearance is extremely uncouth. The hair around the face is bushy, and projects over in such a manner as to give the animal a look so piteous as to excite compassion; it also sometimes sheds tears, which adds to its affecting appearance. Its general colour is a grayish brown, and the hair is long and coarse, covering the body very thickly. This kind of Sloth is found in South America.

The two-toed Sloth is found in the East Indies and Ceylon, and differs from the other in being larger and more active. In most other respects the two animals are similar.

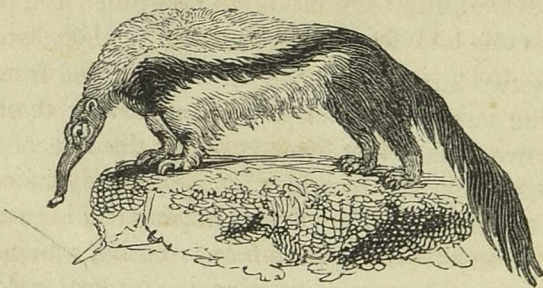
HABITS.

The Sloth is so called from his exceeding slow movements, for he crawls along the ground with the greatest difficulty. On trees, however, he is much more active. He feeds only on vegetable food, and principally on the leaves and bark of trees. It is said to take the animal two days to crawl up a tree, where it stays till the tree is

entirely stripped of bark as well as leaves. It then descends, at the same slow rate; and is only incited to movement by the severest pinchings of hunger.

A Sloth, that was taken by some sailors on board their vessel, climbed up a part of the mast, occupying two hours in what a monkey would have performed in less than half a minute.

THE GREAT ANT-EATER.



SIZE. FORM. HABITS. COUNTRY.

THE body of the Ant-eater, including the tail, which is very long, is seven or eight feet. Its head is long and slender; the mouth is just large enough to admit his tongue, which is nearly two feet long, and lies doubled in the mouth. He is covered with long coarse hair, and lives principally on ants, which he takes in the following manner.

He places his tongue in or near an ant-hill, which is soon covered with ants. When a sufficient number are upon it, he draws it in, and thus devours great numbers at once. He is a native of South America.

Of Squirrels.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SQUIRRELS.

THE Squirrel is lively, sagacious, docile, and nimble. He feeds upon nuts, which he gathers in autumn and preserves for winter's use. His long and bushy tail is to him as a parasol, to defend him from the rays of the sun; as a parachute, to secure him from dangerous falls when leaping from tree to tree; and as a sail in crossing the water, a voyage he sometimes performs in Lapland on a bit of ice or piece of bark inverted in the manner of a boat.

Although naturally timid and wild, he is easily domesticated, and soon becomes perfectly familiar. The nest of the Squirrel is generally formed among the large branches of a spreading tree, where they begin to fork off into smaller ones. It is made of moss, twigs, and dried leaves, and is very roomy, soft, and commodious.

The Squirrel is a vigilant animal; and it is asserted, that, if the tree in which it resides be but touched at the bottom, it instantly quits its nest, flies off to another tree, and thus travels along the whole forest, until it finds itself perfectly out of danger. In this manner it continues for some hours at a distance from home, until the alarm is past; and then it returns by paths, that, to almost every quadruped but itself, are utterly impassable.

It generally bounds from one tree to another at a very great distance; and, if it is at any time obliged to descend, runs up the sides of the next tree with surprising facility. In northern climates Squirrels change their colour on the approach of winter, and become perfectly gray.

This description is applicable, with little variation, to all, or most of the following species. Squirrels are found

in almost every country, but they are most numerous in northern and temperate climates. In the following accounts I have selected the varieties which are known in America. Squirrels resembling most of these are common on the eastern continent.

THE COMMON RED SQUIRREL.



THE Common Red Squirrel is about eight inches in length ; its form is light and elegant ; its colour is a bright reddish brown, its breast and belly white.

This animal is one of the most nimble of his species. Such is the quickness of his movements, that he will dodge at the flash of a gun, and thus sometimes escape the shot. He seems so far to presume upon his powers, that he wantonly chatters from the top of a tree at the road-side, and seems thus to challenge both dogs and schoolboys to the pursuit. He generally lives in woods, but is frequently seen in the more open country, where there are a few trees ; and it is by no means rare to see him darting along the fences at the farm-houses.

THE GRAY SQUIRREL.



THIS species is remarkable among all our Squirrels for its beauty and activity. It varies considerably in colour, but is most commonly of a fine bluish gray, mingled with a slight golden hue. It is very common throughout the United States, and was once so excessively multiplied as to be a scourge to the inhabitants by consuming their grain. Large premiums were once paid in Pennsylvania for their destruction. In captivity it is remarkably playful and mischievous, and is more frequently kept as a pet than any other.

THE FOX SQUIRREL.

THE Fox Squirrel measures about fourteen inches, and the tail is sixteen inches in length. The colour varies from white to a pale gray and black. It is found throughout the Southern States, where it frequents the pine forests in considerable numbers. When alarmed, like many of his kindred species, he immediately resorts to the artifice of spreading himself out, or lying flat on the surface of a branch, opposite to the apprehended danger, where he clings until he has no longer cause to fear.

THE CAT SQUIRREL.

THE Cat Squirrel is one of the largest species, generally about eleven inches long, having a tail fourteen inches in length. It is found in great abundance throughout the oak and chestnut forests of America. Its colour is of all shades and variegations. The size is the only circumstance which positively distinguishes it from the Fox Squirrel. Its movements are comparatively heavy and slow, and its appearance is by no means as pleasing as that of the other kinds of Squirrel.

THE BLACK SQUIRREL.



THIS species is very common, but is liable to be confounded with the black varieties of the Fox and Cat Squirrels. From the former it is distinguished by the proportional length of its tail, and by having one tooth less in the upper jaw. From the latter it is distinguished by its smaller size and the softness of its fur.

THE GREAT-TAILED SQUIRREL.

THE total length of this species, from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, is nineteen inches and three quarters, of which the tail makes about nine inches. It has been

described as displaying all the graceful activity so much admired in the Common Gray Squirrel. The colour of the body above, and on each side, is of a mixed gray and black. It is the most common Squirrel on the Missouri.

THE LINE-TAIL SQUIRREL

Is eleven inches long, inhabits the Missouri country, and lives in rocks: it takes to trees only occasionally to escape from pursuit.

THE FOUR-LINED SQUIRREL

Is four inches long, and is beautifully striped with white, black, and red. It inhabits the Rocky Mountains, adjacent to the rivers Arkansas and Platte.

THE HUDSON'S BAY SQUIRREL

Is a beautiful species, seven or eight inches long, of a reddish brown, shaded with black. It is common in the northern parts of North America.

THE GROUND, OR CHIP SQUIRREL.



THE Ground Squirrel is rather more than five inches in length; the tail is about two inches and a half long. The general colour of the head and upper parts of the body is reddish brown. On the back there are five longitudinal black bands, the middle one running on the back. The

under part of the body is a dirty brown. He burrows in the ground, and is often seen with several nuts in his cheek-pouches, which gives him a very singular appearance.

Few persons have travelled through the United States of America without becoming acquainted with this pretty animal, which, though very different in its general appearance from its kindred tenanted the lofty forest trees, still approaches to them so closely in personal beauty and activity, as always to command the attention of the most incidental observer.

THE FLYING SQUIRREL.



THE Flying Squirrel is quite small, being little more than four inches and a half long, and the tail three and a half. The general colour is a brownish ash. The under parts of the body are white. This Squirrel possesses a membrane, or skin, extending from the fore limbs along the body to the hinder ones. By launching itself from a lofty bough into the air, and extending its limbs, and the intervening membranes, its body is buoyed up, and it sails obliquely downwards, passing over a very considerable space. The tail is so constructed as to form a feather-shaped rudder.

This Squirrel is seldom seen in the day, unless disturbed. He runs with agility as other Squirrels, but cannot spring from tree to tree like them. It is very common throughout the United States, and is found in Europe.

Animals of the Monkey Kind.



THIS is, on the whole, a disgusting race of animals, from the grave Ourang-outang to the elvish and mischievous little Striated Monkey of twelve inches long. They seem to be a sort of caricature of our species, and so mix up the habits of the brute with resemblances to human nature, as to make them appear like a living satire upon mankind.

They are generally divided into three kinds: Apes, Baboons, and Monkeys. The Ourang-outang is at the head of the first. This species have no tails, and approach most nearly to the human race in figure. The Baboon race are different from the Ape, in external appearance, and possess a fiercer temper. Monkeys, though a very numerous species, are smaller and less savage in temper than Baboons; they are, however, the most lively and mischievous.

THE OURANG-OUTANG.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THIS animal is the largest of the ape species, and is said to be sometimes six feet high, though generally between three and five feet. He resembles the human form to such a degree, that he has been called the Wild Man of the Woods. There are differences, however, in his structure, which are easily perceptible. He has a flatter nose, a more oblique forehead, and a chin without any elevation at the base. The eyes are also very near each other, and the nose and mouth far apart. The face, hands, and soles of the feet are without hair, and the hair on the head and chin is much longer than on any other part of the body. He is destitute of a tail, as all of the ape species are. The colour of the Ourang-outang is generally a kind of dusky brown, though sometimes it is black.

In their wild state, these animals inhabit the woods. They feed on fruits and nuts, and, when they happen to approach the shore, will eat fish and crabs. They are very active, strong, and intrepid, capable of overcoming the strongest man; they are likewise exceedingly swift, and

cannot easily be taken alive. They sometimes walk erect, and use their hands and arms like a man. They sleep in the trees, amongst which they build shelters from the rain. They are found in Africa, Asia, and Madagascar.

CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The anecdotes related of these creatures are numerous and interesting. They exhibit little or none of that frolic and vivacity which are the distinguishing characteristics of the monkey; but all their actions are more deliberate and sedate. They are able to drive off the elephant, with pieces of wood in their hands, or only with their fists; they have sometimes been known to throw stones at those who have offended them; and if a negro be unfortunately discovered by them in the woods, they generally attack and kill him.

Dr. Tyson, who gave a very minute description of a young Ourang-outang exhibited in London, about a century ago, assures us, that, in many of its actions, it seemed to display a very high degree of sagacity, and its disposition was exceedingly mild and gentle. Those that he knew on board the vessel that brought him over he would embrace with the greatest tenderness; and, although there were monkeys aboard, yet it was observed, he never would associate with any of them, but seemed to hold them in contempt, and always avoided their company. He used sometimes to wear clothes, and at length became very fond of them. He would even put part of them on without help, and carry the remainder in his hands to some of the ship's company for assistance. He would lie in bed, place his head on a pillow, and pull up the bed-clothes to keep himself warm, exactly like a man.

Buffon thus describes one of these animals that he saw. "His aspect was melancholy, his deportment grave, his movements regular, his disposition gentle, and very different from that of other apes. Unlike the baboon or the

monkey, who are fond of mischief, and only obedient through fear, a look kept him in awe; while the other animals could not be brought to obey without blows. He would present his hand to conduct the people who came to visit him, and walk as gravely along with them as if he had formed a part of the company. I have seen him sit down at table, when he would unfold his towel, wipe his lips, use a spoon or a fork to carry his victuals to his mouth, pour his liquor into a glass, and make it touch that of a person who drank along with him. When invited to take tea, he would bring a cup and saucer, place them on the table, put in sugar, pour out the tea, and allow it to cool before he drank it. All this I have seen him perform without any other instigation than the signs or the command of his master, and often even of his own accord."

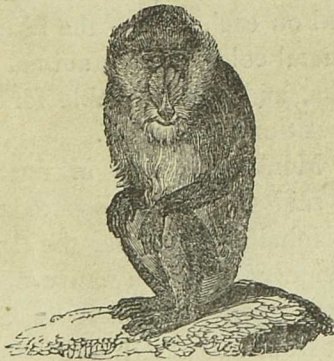


THE LONG-ARMED APE, OR GIBBON.



THIS species is three or four feet high, and has arms of such length that they touch the ground. He is nearly covered with thick rough hair. His disposition is mild, and he feeds on fruits, leaves, and the bark of trees. He always retains the erect posture, and is a native of the East Indies and some of the Asiatic islands.

THE RIBBED-NOSE BABOON, OR MANDRILL.



THE height of this animal, when erect, is from three to five feet. His eyes are small, vivid, and near together; his cheeks are naked, swollen, furrowed, and of a deep blue

colour. His general colour is a greenish brown. His strength is very great, and his disposition brutal and savage. He will eat meat that is cooked, but lives in his native state on fruits and nuts. He is a native of parts of Africa and Asia.

THE COMMON MONKEY.



SIZE. FORM. HABITS. COLOUR. COUNTRIES.

THERE is a great variety of Monkeys, and their size varies from eighteen inches to four feet in length. The nose of this species is short and thick, the tail long, and it possesses a long beard on each side of the head of a greenish yellow. The general colour of the animal is deep brown. It lives upon fruits, and is remarkable for its restlessness, activity, and disposition to mischief.

This kind of Monkey swarms in nearly all tropical climates, and is said to hold undisputed dominion over the territories he inhabits. Neither the tiger nor lion will dispute his sovereignty. He is a native of both Asia and Africa. There are many Monkeys in South America, varying somewhat from this description.

THE STRIATED MONKEY.



THIS is one of the prettiest of this very disagreeable class of animals. Its body is but about twelve inches in length; its tail is long and bushy, and marked with alternate rings of black and ash colour. It is a native of Brazil, and lives on fruits and insects.

There are many other varieties of the Monkey race; indeed the diversity amounts to perhaps a hundred kinds. I have given, however, some of the leading varieties, which will serve as an index to the general appearance and character of the other species.



THE WEASEL.



THE length of the common Weasel is about eight inches, his colour chestnut on the back and sides, and white beneath the throat and belly. His body is long, and his legs are very short. He feeds on flesh, and will destroy rats and mice, and does not spare hens, chickens, eggs, &c.

There are several varieties of the Weasel, some of them living about houses, others inhabiting the woods. They are of various colours and sizes. They are exceedingly vigilant, and have given rise to the adage, "You never catch a Weasel asleep." They are found in abundance in the northern parts of the eastern continent.

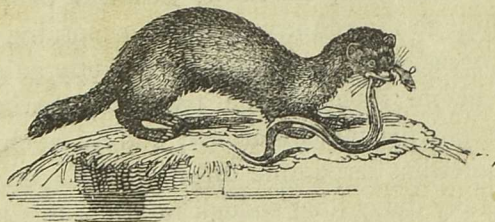
THE COMMON WEASEL OF AMERICA, STOAT, OR ERMINE.

THIS animal answers, in general, to the above description; in the middle states it is called Weasel, further north it is called Stoat in its summer dress; in winter it becomes white, and is then called Ermine. The following extracts are from Dr. Godman.

"Among the small quadrupeds inhabiting this continent (America), few are to be found equalling the Ermine in beauty—perhaps none that excel it in the qualities of courage, graceful celerity of movement, and untiring activity. Its whole aspect inspires the beholder with an idea of its character, which is well supported by its actions.

“The long and slender body, bright and piercing eyes, keen teeth, and sharp claws, clearly show that, however diminutive the animal may appear, it is destined by nature to destroy other creatures more numerous and less powerful than those of its own race; this length and slenderness of body is accompanied by a peculiar degree of flexibility, and by a strength of limb, which, in so small an animal, may be fairly esteemed surprising. There is scarcely an opening through which its prey can enter, where the Ermine cannot follow, and, having once gained access, its instinctive destructiveness is only allayed when no other victim remains to be slaughtered.”

THE POLECAT, OR FITCHET.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE length of this animal is about seventeen inches, in form it resembles the weasel. Its colour is a deep chocolate. It generally lives in the neighbourhood of houses, and devours hares, rabbits, and birds. When pinched for food, it will catch and eat fish. It is remarkable for an odour that is insufferably fetid. Of its fur, hair pencils for painting are sometimes made. It is an inhabitant of the northern parts of Europe.

THE SKUNK.

SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

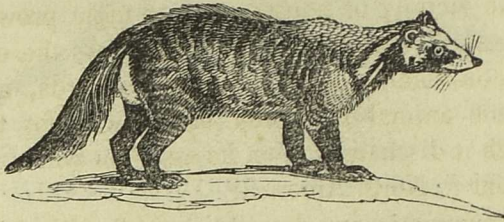
THE length of the Skunk is about eighteen inches. Its legs are short, its body is broad and flat. There are scarcely two of them coloured alike. They are generally black or brown, with white spots or stripes. It usually lives in the vicinity of houses, and at night prowls about the barns, and kills the poultry, and sucks the eggs. It feeds also on small quadrupeds, young birds, and wild fruits. This animal is chiefly remarkable for the fetid odour which it discharges upon its assailant when attacked. It is peculiar to North America.

The following amusing description is furnished by Godman. "Pedestrians, called by business or pleasure to ramble through the country during the morning or evening twilight, occasionally see a small and pretty animal a short distance before them in the path, scampering forward without appearing much alarmed, and advancing in a zig-zag or somewhat serpentine direction. Experienced persons generally delay long enough to allow this unwelcome traveller to withdraw from the path; but it often happens that a view of the animal arouses the ardour of the observer, who, in his fondness for sport, thinks not of any result but that of securing a prize.

"It would be more prudent to rest content with pelting this quadruped from a safe distance, or to drive it away by shouting loudly; but almost all inexperienced persons, the first time such an opportunity occurs, rush forward with intent to run the animal down. This appears to be an easy task; in a few moments it is almost overtaken; a few more strides and the victim may be grasped by its long and waving tail—but the tail is now suddenly curled over the back, its pace is slackened, and in one instant the condition of things is entirely reversed;—the lately

triumphant pursuer is eagerly flying from his intended prize, involved in an atmosphere of stench, gasping for breath, or blinded and smarting with pain, if his approach were sufficiently close to allow of his being struck in the eyes by the pestilent fluid of the Skunk."

THE CIVET.



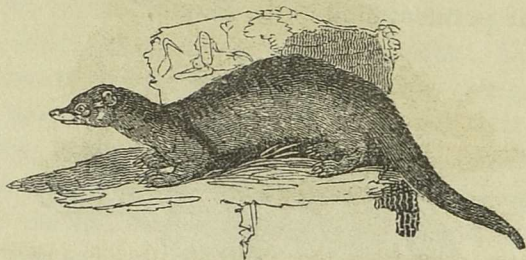
SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. COUNTRIES.

THE Civet is the largest of the weasel kind, and is more than two feet in length, exclusive of the tail, which is about one foot. The body of the Civet bears a strong resemblance to all animals of the weasel kind. Its colour varies, though it is chiefly ash, sometimes spotted, and at others streaked with black. It is a native of the warmest climates, but will exist in cold ones if treated with care.

HABITS. CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Civet is naturally ferocious and voracious. It is, however, capable of being tamed. It feeds on small animals, especially on birds, which it takes by surprise. It is particularly valued for a perfume which it produces, called civet. This has so powerful a smell, that it is impossible to bear any quantity of it in a room; and no person could support the scent of the animal, unless there was a free circulation of air. The Dutch keep great numbers of the Civet at Amsterdam, for the purpose of collecting this drug from them. It is contained in glands near the tail, and is sold at a very high price.

THE ICHNEUMON.

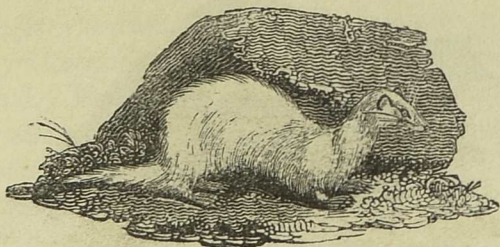


SIZE. COLOUR. COUNTRIES. HABITS.

THE Ichneumon is, in general, about the size of the common cat, but somewhat longer in the body and shorter in the legs. The colour is a pale reddish gray. It is sometimes streaked with a mixture of colours in the same manner as a domestic cat. The Ichneumon is a native of Egypt, Barbary, and the Cape of Good Hope.

This animal is one of the boldest and most useful of the weasel kind. It is held in high estimation, especially in Egypt, for the destruction it makes of the crocodile's eggs. Rats, mice, birds, serpents, and lizards, all become its prey; and it will attack the most poisonous reptiles, and, if wounded by them, it is said to find an antidote in some herb. Besides destroying the eggs of the crocodile, it also attacks their young, and for this cause it was formerly so highly estimated by the Egyptians, that they worshiped it. It is kept by them in their houses, as the cat is in ours.

THE FERRET.



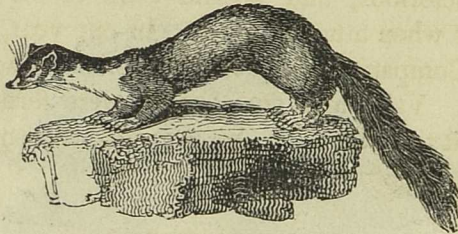
THE Ferret resembles the polecat in his manners and habits, yet it is evidently a distinct species. It was originally a native of Africa, but is now common in Europe. It is not so large as a polecat, is of a dingy but pale yellow, has red eyes, and a strong and offensive smell. Though not difficult to be tamed, it is of an irascible nature, and will bite severely. It is used for driving rabbits from their burrows into the nets which are set for them.

THE FOSSAN.



THIS animal is about the size of the ferret, and has a slender body, covered with hair of an ash colour, mixed with tawny. It inhabits the island of Madagascar, Guinea, Cochin China, and the Philippine Isles. It feeds on flesh and fruits, but prefers the latter, and is peculiarly fond of bananas. It is exceedingly fierce, and difficult to be tamed.

THE MARTEN.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THE body of the Marten in length is about twenty inches ; in shape it resembles the weasel, but the tail is longer and more bushy. This animal is covered with a thick fur, of a dark chestnut colour, intermixed with long hair, tipped with black. Its habits resemble those of the weasel, but it manifests no disposition to approach the dwellings of man. It is found in all the northern parts of the eastern continent. Its fur is much esteemed, and vast numbers are killed to obtain it.

THE PINE MARTEN.



THIS animal is so called from its predilection for pine forests ; it resembles the preceding, except that it is somewhat smaller, its fur finer, and it is marked with a yellow,

instead of a white spot under the throat. In America it is found only in the northern portions of the continent. It has frequent contests with the wild cat, in which it is generally victorious, and is said even to overcome the golden eagle when attacked by it. In one year, the Hudson's Bay Company alone sold fifteen thousand skins of this animal. Vast numbers of them were formerly used for muffs and tippets. The fur is extensively employed in the manufacture of hats.

THE FISHER.

THIS animal, which is also called Pennant's Marten, has no predilection for the water, as its name would intimate, but it inhabits the woods, and, like the other varieties of the marten, lives on small quadrupeds, birds, &c. Its length is about twenty-four inches; its general colour is nearly the same as that of the pine marten; under the throat, it is brown instead of yellow. It is peculiar to North America, and, though not as numerous a species as the pine marten, contributes largely to the supplies obtained by the fur companies.

THE MINK.

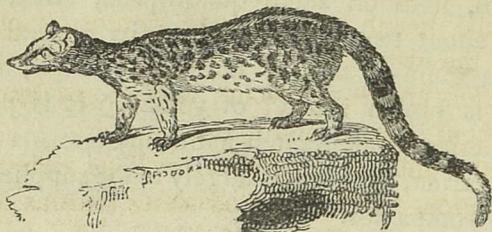
THE favourite haunts of this species are the banks of streams, especially in the vicinity of mill-seats or farm-houses, where it inhabits holes near the water, or the ruins of old walls. Its food, in a great degree, consists of frogs and fish, but it frequently invades the poultry-yards, and commits as extensive ravages as any of its kindred species, biting off the heads and sucking the blood of the fowls in a similar manner.

This animal is about twenty inches in length from head to tail, the latter being four inches long. The feet are broad, webbed, and covered with hair; the tail is dusky, and ends in a point. The fur is principally used by the hatters.

THE SABLE.

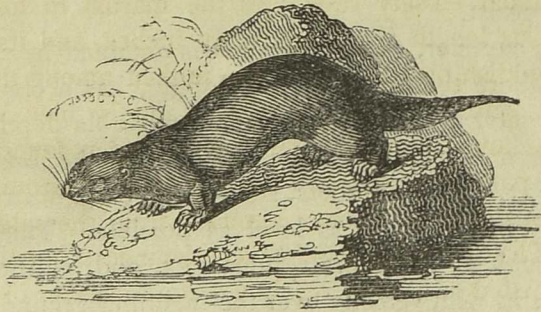
THIS animal closely resembles the marten in form and habits. Its length is about twenty inches, and its colour a deep reddish brown. Its fur is ranked among the most precious peltries. This animal is rarely met with in America, but is abundant in Siberia, and is found in the northern parts of Europe. The Russian government derives a considerable revenue annually from the sale of the skins. The Sable is hunted by condemned criminals, who are compelled to furnish yearly a certain number of skins.

THE GENET.



THIS animal, which is smaller than the civet, resembles all those of the weasel kind, in having a soft beautiful fur, feet armed with claws that cannot be sheathed, and an appetite for petty carnage. Like the civet, it has an opening or pouch, in which is secreted a kind of perfume. They are said to be very cleanly and industrious; and to keep houses perfectly clear from rats and mice, which cannot endure their smell. It is a native of Spain, Africa, and Southern Asia; and they require a warm climate to subsist and multiply in.

THE AMERICAN OTTER.



SIZE. COLOUR. COUNTRIES. HABITS.

THE American Otter is about five feet in length, including the tail, the length of which is eighteen inches. The colour of the whole of the body, except the chin and throat, which are dusky white, is a glossy brown. The fur throughout is dense and fine.

This Otter inhabits South, as well as various parts of North America, along the fresh water streams and lakes, as far north as to the Coppermine river. In the southern, middle, and eastern states of the Union, they are comparatively scarce, but in the western states they are in many places still found in considerable numbers. On the tributaries of the Missouri they are very common; but it is in the Hudson's Bay possessions that these animals are obtained in the greatest abundance, and supply the traders with the largest number of their valuable skins. Seventeen thousand three hundred Otter skins have been sent to England in one year by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Their favourite sport is sliding, and for this purpose in winter the highest ridge of snow is selected, to the top of which the Otters scramble, where, lying on the belly, with their fore feet bent backwards, they give themselves an impulse with their hind legs, and swiftly glide head-fore-

most down the declivity, sometimes for the distance of twenty yards. This sport they continue, apparently with the keenest enjoyment, until fatigue or hunger induces them to desist.

In the summer, this amusement is obtained by selecting a spot where the river-bank is sloping, has a clayey soil, and the water at its base is of a considerable depth. The Otters then remove from the surface, for the breadth of several feet, the sticks, roots, stones, and other obstructions, and render the surface as level as possible. They climb up the bank at a less precipitous spot, and, starting from the top, slip with velocity over the inclining ground plump into the water, to a depth proportioned to their weight and rapidity of motion. After a few slides and plunges the surface of the clay becomes very smooth and slippery, and the rapid succession of the sliders shows how much these animals are delighted by the game, as well as how capable they are of performing actions which have no other object than that of pleasure or diversion.

The fur of the Otter is much valued by the hatters and other consumers of peltries; and as the animal is hunted at all times without any regard to the preservation or increase of the species, it must ultimately become as rare in North America as the kindred species has long since been in Europe.

THE EUROPEAN OTTER.

THE European Otter resembles the American Otter, but the neck of the latter is elongated, not short; and the head narrow and long in comparison with the short broad visage of the European species; the ears are consequently much closer than in the latter animal. It may be tamed, and taught to fish for its master, and to follow him like a dog.

THE SEA OTTER.

THIS animal is found in the northern parts of the Pacific Ocean, on the shores of North America, and Kamtschatka. Its fur is very beautiful.

The Sea Otter, when full grown, is about the size of a large mastiff, and weighs from seventy to eighty pounds. In general appearance there is a considerable degree of resemblance between this animal and the seal, especially in the flat and webbed feet of the hinder extremities. It is always found on the coast, or in the immediate vicinity of the salt water, and in tempestuous weather seeks shelter among the weeds which are collected in great quantities in many parts of the seas it inhabits. Its food is various, but principally cuttle-fish, lobsters, and other fish.

THE BEAVER.



SIZE. FORM. COLOUR. COUNTRIES.

THIS animal is about two feet long, and nearly a foot high. Its body is thick, and it is furnished with a flat broad tail, covered with scales, which serves as a rudder. Its teeth are long, and well adapted for cutting timber. Its colour is a bright brown; the hair is of two sorts, the exterior being long and coarse, the interior soft, short, and silky. At the present period, the Beaver inhabits only the northern

parts of Europe and Asia, and North America, in which latter country it is principally found. The great value of its fur causes this animal to be eagerly hunted, and its numbers are consequently daily diminishing.

HABITS. CURIOUS PARTICULARS.

The Beaver is a very ingenious animal, and has furnished abundant occasion for fabulous and absurd descriptions of its habits. I extract from Dr. Godman the following accurate account of the manner in which it builds its dwellings.

“ Beavers are not particular in the site they select for the establishment of their dwellings, but if in a lake or pond, where a dam is not required, they are careful to build where the water is sufficiently deep. In standing waters, however, they have not the advantage afforded by a current for the transportation of their supplies of wood, which, when they build on a running stream, is always cut higher up than the place of their residence, and floated down.

“ The materials used for the construction of their dams are the trunks and branches of small birch, mulberry, willow, poplar, &c. They begin to cut down their timber for building early in the summer, but their edifices are not commenced until about the middle or latter part of August, and are not completed until the beginning of the cold season. The strength of their teeth, and their perseverance in this work, may be fairly estimated by the size of the trees they cut down. Dr. Best informs us, that he has seen a mulberry tree, eight inches in diameter, which had been gnawed down by the Beaver.

“ The figure of the dam varies according to circumstances. Should the current be very gentle, the dam is carried nearly straight across; but when the stream is swiftly flowing, it is uniformly made with a considerable curve, having the convex part opposed to the current. Along with the trunks and branches of trees they inter-

mingle mud and stones, to give greater security; and when dams have been long undisturbed and frequently repaired, they acquire great solidity, and their power of resisting the pressure of water and ice is greatly increased by the willow, birch, &c. occasionally taking root, and eventually growing up into something of a regular hedge.

“The dwellings of the Beaver are formed of the same materials as their dams, and are very rude, though strong, and adapted in size to the number of their inhabitants. These are seldom more than four old and six or eight young ones. Double that number have been occasionally found in one of the lodges, though this is by no means a very common circumstance.

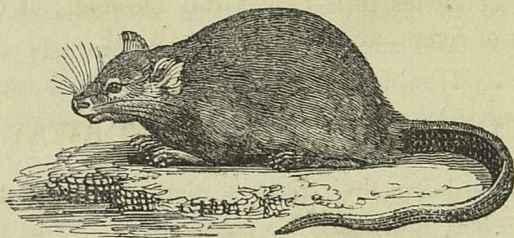
“When building their houses, they place most of the wood crosswise, and nearly horizontally, observing no other order than that of leaving a cavity in the middle. Branches which project inward are cut off with their teeth and thrown among the rest. The houses are by no means built of sticks first and then plastered, but all the materials, sticks, mud, and stones, if the latter can be procured, are mixed up together, and this composition is employed from the foundation to the summit. The mud is obtained from the adjacent banks or bottom of the stream or pond near the door of the hut. Mud and stones the Beaver always carries by holding them between his fore paws and throat.

“Their work is all performed at night, and with much expedition. When straw or grass is mingled with the mud used by them in building, it is an accidental circumstance, owing to the nature of the spot whence the latter was taken. As soon as any part of the material is placed where it is intended to remain, they turn round and give it a smart blow with the tail. The same sort of blow is struck by them upon the surface of the water when they are in the act of diving.

“The outside of the hut is covered or plastered with mud late in the autumn, and after frost has begun to

appear. By freezing it soon becomes almost as hard as stone, effectually excluding their great enemy, the wolverene, during the winter. Their habit of walking over the work frequently during its progress, has led to the absurd idea of their using the tail as a trowel."

THE MUSK RAT.



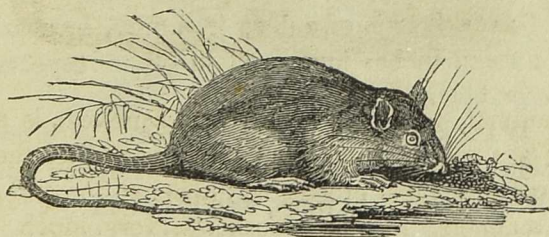
THIS animal, which is a native of America, is about the size of a small rabbit. In form it resembles the Beaver. Its colour is reddish brown, its fur being fine and glossy.

Its manners, in many respects, very much resemble those of the Beaver. It is fond of the water, and swims well. At the approach of winter, several families associate together, and build little huts, about two feet in diameter, composed of herbs and rushes cemented with clay, forming a dome-like covering; from which are several passages, in different directions, by which they go out in quest of roots and other food. The hunters take them in the spring, by opening their holes, and letting the light suddenly in upon them. At that time their flesh is tolerably good, and is frequently eaten; but in the summer it acquires a scent of musk so strong as to render it perfectly unpalatable. If taken when young they may easily be tamed, and are then very playful, and perfectly inoffensive.

THE MUSCOVY MUSK RAT.

THIS animal is about the size of the common rat; it has a long and slender nose; no external ears; and very small eyes; the tail is compressed sideways, and its hind feet are webbed; it is of a dusky colour; the belly is of a light ash. It is a native of Lapland and Russia, in the former of which countries it is called the Desman; it frequents the banks of rivers, and feeds on small fish.

THE COMMON BROWN, OR NORWAY RAT.



THIS animal measures about nine inches, and is of a light brown colour. Though now so extensively diffused over America, it is not indigenous to the soil, but was introduced from Europe, which received it from Asia, about the year 1750. For the following amusing sketch of his character, the Rat is indebted to Dr. Godman.

“Among quadrupeds this Rat may be considered as occupying the same rank as the crow does among birds. He is one of the most impudent, troublesome, mischievous, wicked wretches that ever infested the habitations of man. To the most wily cunning he adds a fierceness and malignancy of disposition that frequently renders him a dangerous enemy, and a destroyer of every living creature he can master. He is a pure thief, stealing not merely articles of food, for which his hunger would be a sufficient justification, but substances which can be of no possible utility to him.

“When he gains access to the library he does not hesitate to *translate* and appropriate to his own use the works of the most learned authors, and is not so readily detected as some of his brother pirates of the human kind, since he does not carry off his prize entire, but cuts it into pieces before he conveys it to his den. He is, in short, possessed of no one quality to save him from being universally despised, and his character inspires no stronger feeling than contempt, even in those who are under the necessity of putting him to death.”

Other Kinds of Rats.

The BLACK RAT is of a deep iron gray, or nearly black, is about seven inches long, and in other respects bears a close resemblance to the brown rat.

THE WATER RAT differs little from the brown rat in appearance, and inhabits the banks of rivers and ponds, where he feeds on fish, frogs, and insects.

The POUCHED RAT is found in Florida, Georgia, and Missouri in great numbers. It is rendered peculiar in its appearance from the cheek-pouches on the exterior of the mouth. Its colour is brown, and it lives in burrows in the ground.

The COTTON RAT is found in Florida, burrows in the ground, and makes its nest of cotton. Its colour is of a dirty yellow.

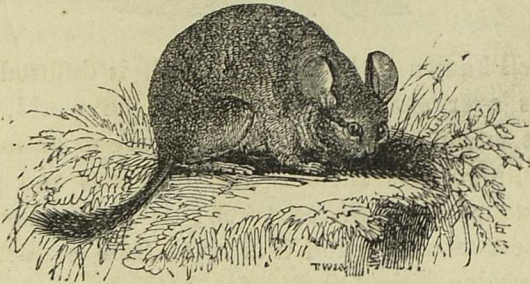
The WOOD RAT is about the size of the common rat, of a dark brown colour or black, makes its nest of brush and rubbish, and is found in Florida and Missouri.

The HUDSON'S BAY LEMMING is covered by a very fine, soft, and long hair, of an ash colour. In winter it is white. The limbs are quite short, and the fore feet, being formed for burrowing, are very strong.

The LAPLAND LEMMING resembles the preceding, but is remarkable for its extensive migrations. When a severe

winter is approaching, the Lemmings migrate to the southward, and they move in a straight forward direction with such inflexible regularity, that, sooner than deviate from it, they will perish in attempting to pass over any obstacle which they may find in their way.

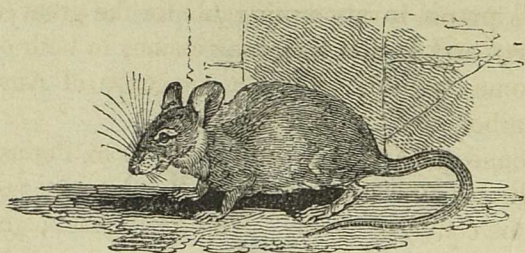
THE CHINCHILLA.



THIS animal is about nine inches in length, and its tail five inches. Its eyes are full, like those of the rabbit, its hind legs are long, its fore ones short. It sits upon its haunches, and takes its food in its fore paws. It resembles the jumping mouse, but the class to which it belongs is not yet determined. Though it is generally considered one of the mouse or rat kind, yet it seems probable that it is a distinct genus, partaking both of the characteristics of the hare and jerboa.

It is found in Chili and Peru, and inhabits the open country, living in burrows, and subsisting on the roots of bulbous plants, which are abundant in those regions. Great numbers of them are killed for their skins, which furnish the most delicate and beautiful of furs. It is somewhat amusing that the celebrated Buffon should have considered this interesting animal and the chinche, one of the most stinking and disgusting of all brutes, to be the same.

THE COMMON MOUSE.



THIS well known little animal, which is diffused in great numbers over almost every part of the world, seems a constant attendant on man, and is only to be found near his dwelling. Its enemies are numerous and powerful, and it has no means of resistance; its minuteness seems to be its best security; and it is saved from extinction only by its amazing fecundity.

THE FIELD MOUSE.

OF Field Mice there are two kinds: the long-tailed, and the short tailed, of which the latter is the largest. They live in burrows under ground, and feed principally on acorns, nuts, and beech mast.

THE MEADOW, OR HARVEST MOUSE.

THE general colour of this species is a reddish yellow, mingled with black on the upper part of the body, and a clear cinereous gray beneath. Its length, including the tail, is about five inches.

The Meadow Mouse is found in various degrees of abundance throughout this country, and, as implied by its name, prefers the meadows and grass-fields to other situations.

THE JUMPING MOUSE.

THIS little animal is very remarkable for the great length of its hind legs and its mode of progression, in both of which it bears some resemblance to the kangaroo of Australasia, and the jerboa of the old continent.

It is found in America from Canada to Pennsylvania, and no doubt still farther south. It is in size nearly the same as the common mouse. The head, back, and upper parts of the body, generally, are of a reddish brown colour, somewhat approaching to yellow.

THE LABRADOR JUMPING MOUSE.

THIS species, which closely resembles the preceding in its mode of living, is found in the Labrador and Hudson's Bay country. It is about four inches in length, exclusive of the tail, which is two inches and a half long.

THE DORMOUSE, OR SLEEPER.

THIS animal is somewhat like the mouse. They build their nests either in the hollow of trees, or near the bottom of thick shrubs, and line them most industriously with moss, soft lichens, and dead leaves. Conscious of the length of time they have to pass in their solitary cells, Dormice are very particular in the choice of the materials they employ to build and furnish them; and generally lay up a store of food, consisting of nuts, beans, and acorns; and on the approach of cold weather they roll themselves in balls, the tail curled up over their head between the ears, and, in a state of apparent lethargy, pass the greatest part of winter, till the warmth of the sun kindles their congealed blood, and calls them back again to the enjoyment of life.

THE SHREW.

THIS animal, of which there are several kinds, resembles the mole; its size is diminutive, the nose is pointed, the legs are short, and the eyes exceedingly minute.

Shrews are most generally found in the country, where their residence is either in burrows, or among heaps of stones, or in holes made by other animals; near dung heaps or hayricks, they are more numerous than elsewhere. Insects are their principal subsistence, but they seem no less fond of grain, putrid flesh, and filth of various sorts, as they have been occasionally seen rooting in ordure in a manner similar to that of the hog.

THE SHREW MOLE.



THE Shrew Mole (which in England is called only the Mole) when at rest bears more resemblance to a small stuffed sack than to a living animal, its head being entirely destitute of external ears, and elongated nearly to a point, and its eyes so extremely small and completely hidden by the fur, that it would not be surprising should a casual observer conclude this creature to be blind. But we must be continually guarded against hasty conclusions, or idle conjectures, drawn from slight observations; this apparently shapeless mass is endowed with great activity and a surprising degree of strength, and is excellently suited for

deriving enjoyment from the peculiar life it is designed to lead.

The Shrew Mole is found abundantly in Europe and North America, from Canada to Virginia; often living at no great distance from water-courses, or in dykes thrown up to protect meadows from inundation.

The Shrew Mole burrows with great quickness, and travels under ground with much celerity; nothing can be better constructed for this purpose than its broad and strong hands, or fore paws, armed with long and powerful claws, which are very sharp at their extremities, and slightly curved on the inside.

Numerous galleries, communicating with each other, enable the Shrew Mole to travel in various directions, without coming to the surface, which they appear to do very rarely, unless their progress is impeded by a piece of ground so hard as to defy their strength and perseverance. The depth of their burrows depends very materially on the character of the soil, and the situation of the place; sometimes we find them running for a great distance, at a depth of from one to three inches, and again we trace them much deeper.

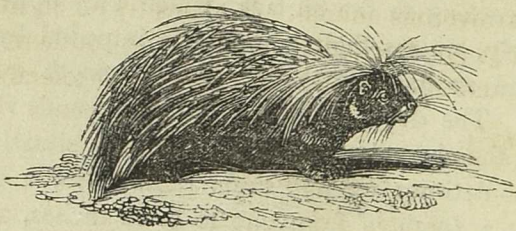
The most remarkable circumstance connected with these burrows, is the number of hills of loose dirt which are frequently formed over the surface of them. These hills of loose earth are usually found in considerable numbers, at a distance of two feet or a little more apart, being from four to six inches high, and about the same in diameter.

Shrew Moles are most active early in the morning, at midday, and in the evening; after rains they are particularly busy in repairing their damaged galleries; and in long continued wet weather we find that they seek the high grounds for security. The precision with which they daily come to the surface at twelve o'clock is very remarkable, and is well known in the country.

THE STAR-NOSE MOLE.

THIS animal, being about four inches long, is an inch shorter than the preceding. It is remarkable for a fringe of cartilage on the nose, resembling the rays of a star in figure. It frequents the banks of rivulets, and the soft soil of adjoining meadows, where their galleries or burrows are so numerous that one can hardly help breaking them down in walking. Their eyes are very minute and hidden, like those of other moles.

THE PORCUPINE.



SIZE. FORM. HABITS. COUNTRIES.

THIS animal is about two feet in length, its legs are short, and its head resembles that of the hare. Its body is covered with spines or quills from ten to fourteen inches long, which generally incline backwards, but stand erect when the animal is irritated.

It lives on vegetables and the bark of trees, is inoffensive in its disposition, but becomes formidable to any assailant. It kills serpents by forming itself into a ball, and rolling its spines over them. It used to be imagined that it had the power of throwing its quills to a distance, but this absurd notion is exploded. This animal inhabits Africa and India, and is sometimes found in Italy and Sicily.

THE COUANDO.



THE Couando, or Brazilian Porcupine, is much less than the real porcupine, and differs from it in its shorter head, muzzle, and quills, its longer tail, its wanting the tuft on its head, and the slit in the upper lip, and, above all, in its being a carnivorous animal. It roams by night, and sleeps by day. It is principally found in the southern parts of America, and is capable of being rendered tolerably tame.

THE HEDGEHOG.



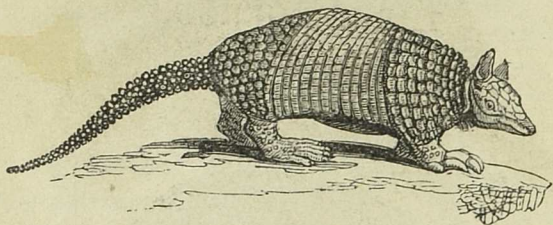
THE length of the Hedgehog is six to ten inches; the head, back, and sides are covered with short spines, the under parts with soft hair. It lives in thickets, and subsists on fruits, roots, and insects. When domesticated, it devours cockroaches, beetles, and meat either raw or roasted. For defence, it rolls itself into a ball in such a manner as to

present its prickly spines on all sides. During the winter, it lies imbedded in moss, or dried leaves, in a state of torpidity. It inhabits Europe, and a smaller species is found in Asia.

THE TANREC.

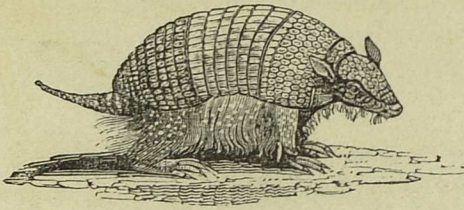
THIS animal is somewhat similar to the hedgehog, but smaller, being about the size of a mole, and is covered with prickles mixed with hair; but, unlike the hedgehog, it does not roll itself into a ball. Its legs are very short; its voice resembles the grunting of a hog, and it is fond of wallowing in the mire. It is generally found near creeks and harbours of salt water, and is said to be in a state of torpidity several months; during which its hair falls off, and is renewed upon its revival. It is a native of the East Indies and Madagascar.

THE ARMADILLO.



THE Armadillo is a native of South America, in which country there are several varieties of them. They are all covered with a strong crust or shell, and are distinguished from each other by the number of flexible bands of which it is composed. It is about twelve inches long, and eight broad, and is a harmless, inoffensive animal, living in burrows under ground, which it seldom quits but at night; roots, fruits, and other vegetables are its food; it grows very fat, and is greatly esteemed for the delicacy of its flesh.

THE SIX-BANDED ARMADILLO.



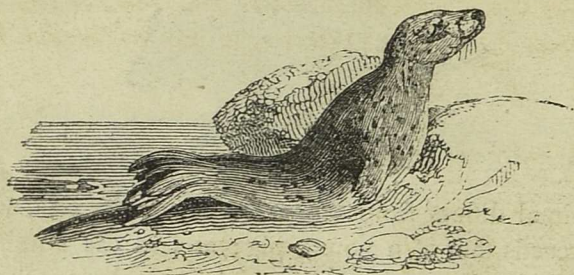
THIS animal differs from the preceding in its size, which never exceeds that of a young pig; and in the number of its bands being less. Its tail is thick at the base, tapers to a point, and is shorter than in the rest of its species. - It is found in Brazil and Guiana.

THE PANGOLIN, OR MANIS.



THE Pangolin, or Manis, of which there are two species, the long-tailed and the short-tailed, is a native of Africa and the East Indies. All the upper parts of its body are closely covered with scales of different sizes, which, as they are attached to the skin only by the lower extremity, it can erect at pleasure, opposing to its adversary a formidable row of offensive weapons. They are sharp at the point, and so hard as, on collision, to strike fire like a flint. The moment it perceives the approach of an enemy, it rolls itself up like a hedgehog, and by that means secures all the weaker parts of its body.

THE SEAL.



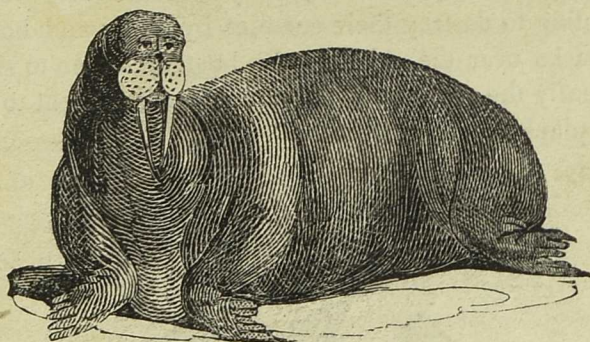
THE Seal has a round head, which, at the fore part, bears considerable resemblance to that of an otter, though the whole aspect is not unlike that of some varieties of the dog, whence the name of the sea-dog and sea-wolf has been applied to different species of Seal. The general colour of the Seal is of a yellowish gray, varied or spotted with brown or blackish in different degrees, according to the age of the animal. The common Seal frequents the sea-coasts perhaps throughout the world, but is most numerous in high northern latitudes, and furnishes the inhabitants of those frigid regions with nearly all their necessaries and luxuries.

The number of Seals destroyed in a single season by the regular *sealers*, may well excite surprise: one ship has been known to obtain a cargo of four or five thousand skins, and upwards of a hundred tons of oil. Whale ships have accidentally fallen in with and secured two or three thousand of these animals during the month of April. The sealing business is, however, very hazardous when conducted on the borders of the Spitzbergen ice. Many ships, with all their crews, are lost by the sudden and tremendous storms occurring in those seas, where the dangers are vastly multiplied by the driving of immense bodies of ice. In one storm that occurred in the year 1774, no less than five

seal ships were destroyed in a few hours, and six hundred valuable seamen perished.

There are many other species of Seals, as the Ursine Seal, the Fetid Seal, the Hooded Seal, the Harp Seal, and the Great Seal, which grows to ten or twelve feet in length.

THE WALRUS, OR GREAT MORSE.



THIS large and unwieldy creature bears a stronger resemblance to the seal than to any other quadruped, but it is strikingly distinguished by the proportions of its body and its elephant-like tusks. Vast herds of this species formerly frequented the shores of the islands scattered between America and Asia, the coasts of Davis's Straits and those of Hudson's Bay. They have been found as far south as the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. At present they are not met with in very great numbers, except on the icy shores of Spitzbergen and the remotest northern borders of America.

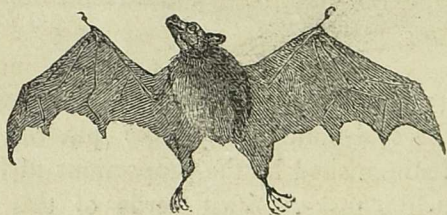
They attain the size of an ox, being, when full grown, from twelve to fifteen feet in length, and from eight to ten in circumference. The head is oval, short, small, and flat in front, having the eyes set in deep sockets so as to be moved forwards, or retracted at pleasure.

On land the Walrus is a slow and clumsy animal, but in

the water its motions are sufficiently quick and easy. The head of a young Walrus without tusks, when observed at some distance above water, bears considerable resemblance to the human face, and has been occasionally mistaken, by persons unaccustomed to their appearance, for that of a man.

When attacked, the Walrus is both fierce and formidable, more especially if in company with its young. Under such circumstances, they become very furious, attempting to destroy their enemies by rising and hooking their tusks over the sides of the boat, in order to sink it. Frequently the violence of their blows is sufficient to stave in the planks of small boats.

THE BAT.



THE Bat, of which there are several species, seems, at first sight, to belong to the class of birds, or, at least, to constitute the link which connects the tribes of birds and beasts. It has, however, nothing in common with them, except the power of raising itself in the atmosphere: its hair, teeth, habits, and conformation all combine to rank it among quadrupeds.

The Common Bat is about the size of a mouse, or nearly two inches and a half in length. The membranes, commonly called wings, are, in fact, nothing more than an extension of the skin all round the body; the skin is stretched on every side, when the animal flies, by the four

inner toes of the fore feet, which are enormously long, and serve to keep it spread, and regulate its motions. The body is covered with a short fur, of a mouse colour tinged with red; the eyes are very small, and the ears resemble those of a mouse.

When the Bat is not on the wing, one could scarcely imagine how it would use its limbs, in order to move on the ground; yet, when it is necessary, it employs them advantageously for the purpose. The folded wings then become fore legs; it is sustained on four feet; it advances, and draws itself along with sufficient quickness to justify us in saying that it runs fast.

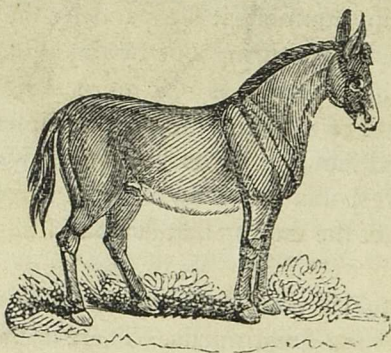
It appears early in the summer, and commences its flight in the dusk of the evening; principally frequenting the sides of woods and shady walks, and skimming along the surface of pieces of water. It feeds upon gnats, moths, and nocturnal insects of every kind, and appears only in the most pleasant evenings, when such prey is abroad. At other times it remains concealed in the chink of some dilapidated building, or the hollow of a tree.

Thus, even in summer, it sleeps away the greatest part of its time; never venturing out by daylight, nor in rainy weather; and its short life is still more abridged, by continuing in a state of torpidity during the winter; when it is frequently found hanging by its hooked claws to the roofs or sides of caves, unaffected by every change of weather, and regardless of the damps that surround it.

I have thus told my reader something of what I consider the most interesting quadrupeds. There are, indeed, many others, which are not mentioned, because every thing cannot be told in a book so small as this. There are also many other curious things about those I have mentioned, which I could not relate here. I trust my reader will consider this little work only an introduction to the delightful study of animals.

The native animals of the American continent, in cases where they closely resemble the kindred species of the eastern continent, are often in some respects different. From this fact, a good deal of confusion has arisen among authors, and I have found it occasionally difficult to satisfy myself of the exact truth. I hope, however, I have made no material mistakes.

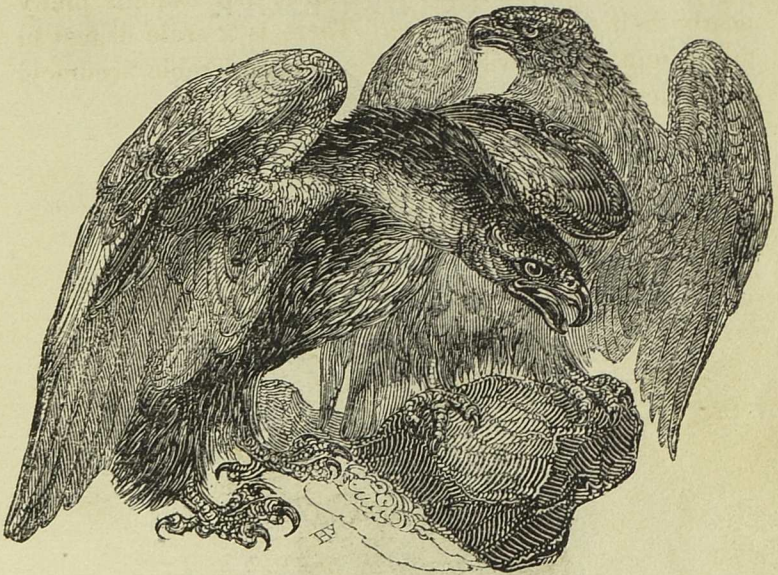
There is a plate at the beginning of this book which represents several animals in outline, and exhibits pretty nearly their comparative size. There is a scale of feet in the margin, which will show also, with tolerable accuracy, the dimensions of the larger beasts.



OF BIRDS.

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EAGLES.

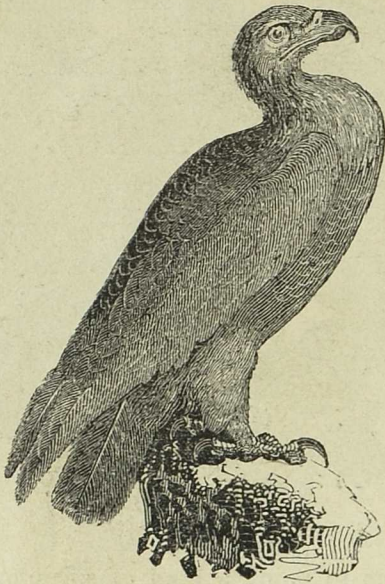


THE Eagle seems to enjoy a kind of supremacy over the rest of the inhabitants of the air. Such is the loftiness of his flight that he often soars in the sky, beyond the reach of the naked eye, and such is his strength that he has been known to bear away children in his talons. But many of the noble qualities imputed to him by Buffon and other writers, are more fanciful than true. He has been represented as possessing a lofty independence which makes him disdain to feed on any thing that is not slain by his own strength; but Wilson says, that he has seen an Eagle, while feasting on the carcass of a dead horse, keep the

longing vultures at bay; and it is well known that the Bald Eagle principally subsists by robbing the fish-hawk of its prey.

The Eagle is remarkable for longevity. It is stated that one of these birds died at Vienna, after a confinement of one hundred and four years.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE.



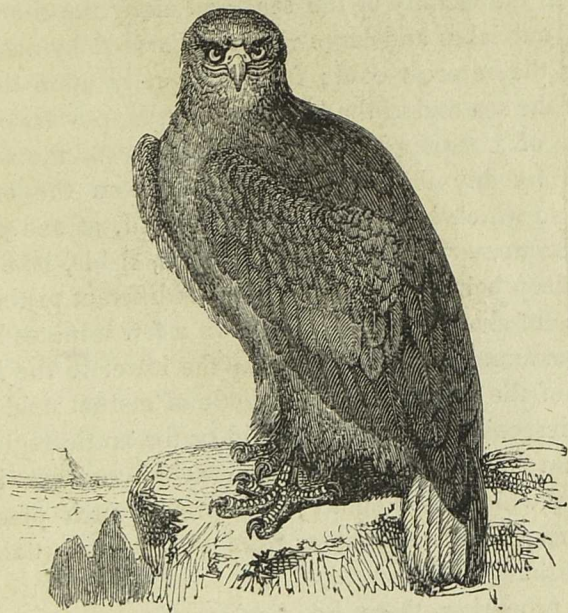
THE Golden Eagle, which is one of the largest species, is nearly four feet from the point of the beak to the end of the tail. His neck is of a rusty colour, the rest of the body is nearly black, with lighter spots. Elevated rocks, and ruined solitary castles and towers, are the places which this bird chooses for his abode. His nest is flat, composed of sticks, rushes, &c. The Ring-tailed Eagle is now discovered to be the young of the Golden Eagle. This eaglet is very powerful, and one of them will master a dog supe-

rior to it in size. It inhabits most parts of Europe and America; in the latter country its feathers are particularly valued by the native Indians, as ornaments for dress. It is the common Eagle of Europe.

THE WHITE-TAILED EAGLE.

THIS bird, of which there are two or three varieties, is inferior in size to the golden eagle. Its general colour is brown, its quill-feathers are very dark. It is a native of Europe, and bears a general resemblance in character and habits to the preceding varieties.

THE BALD OR GRAY, AND SEA EAGLE,



ARE now generally considered distinct species, though Mr. Wilson regards them as the same. They are alike in size, habits, and general appearance; the only apparent difference is in the colour of the neck and head, those

of the Bald Eagle being white, those of the other gray and somewhat variegated. The difference is probably accidental, or perhaps the Gray Eagle is the Bald Eagle in his youth.

The following beautiful description of the Bald Eagle is taken from the author just mentioned, to whom we are indebted for a splendid work on American birds, abounding in the most minute, lively, and eloquent descriptions.

“ This distinguished bird, as he is the most beautiful of his tribe in this part of the world, and the adopted emblem of our country, is entitled to particular notice. He has been long known to naturalists, being common to both continents, and occasionally met with from a very high northern latitude, to the borders of the torrid zone, but chiefly in the vicinity of the sea, and along the shores and cliffs of our lakes and large rivers. Formed by nature for braving the severest cold; feeding equally upon the produce of the sea and of the land; possessing powers of flight capable of outstripping even the tempests themselves; unawed by any thing but man; and from the ethereal heights to which he soars, looking abroad, at one glance, on an immeasurable expanse of forests, fields, lakes, and ocean, deep below him; he appears indifferent to the little localities of change of seasons; as in a few minutes he can pass from summer to winter, from the lower to the higher regions of the atmosphere, the abode of eternal cold; and thence descend at will to the torrid or the arctic regions of the earth. He is therefore found at all seasons in the countries which he inhabits; but prefers such places as have been mentioned above, from the great partiality he has for fish.

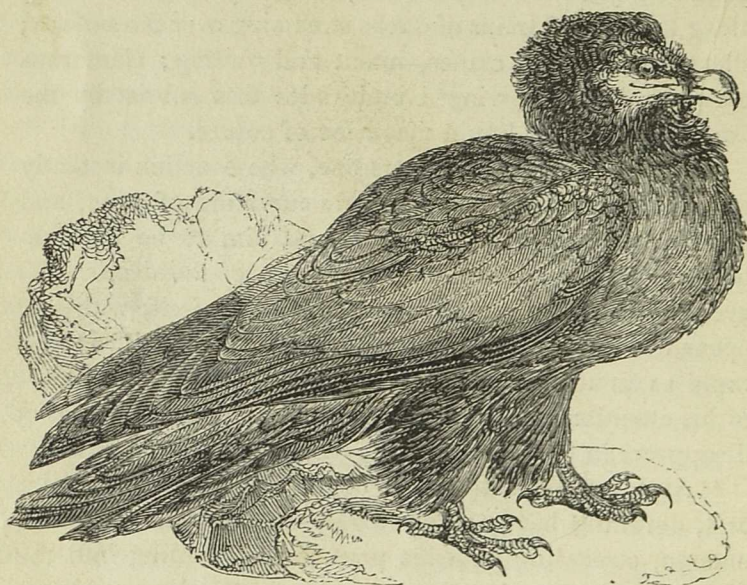
“ In procuring these he displays, in a very singular manner, the genius and energy of his character, which is fierce, contemplative, daring, and tyrannical; attributes not exerted but on particular occasions; but, when put forth, overwhelming all opposition. Elevated upon a high

dead limb of some gigantic tree, that commands a wide view of the neighbouring shore and ocean, he seems calmly to contemplate the motions of the various feathered tribes that pursue their busy avocations below; the snow white gulls slowly winnowing the air; the busy *tringæ* coursing along the sands; trains of ducks streaming over the surface; silent and watchful cranes, intent and wading; clamorous crows, and all the winged multitudes that subsist by the bounty of this vast liquid magazine of nature.

“High over all these hovers one, whose action instantly arrests his attention. By his wide curvature of wing, and sudden suspension in air, he knows him to be the fish-hawk settling over some devoted victim of the deep. His eye kindles at the sight, and balancing himself, with half opened wings, on the branch, he watches the result. Down, rapid as an arrow from heaven, descends the distant object of his attention, the roar of its wings reaching the ear as it disappears in the deep, making the surges foam around.

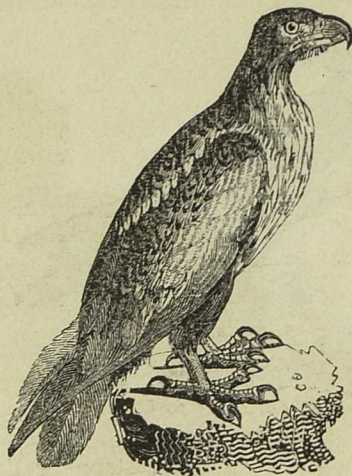
“At this moment the looks of the Eagle are all ardour; and, levelling his neck for flight, he sees the fish-hawk emerge, struggling with his prey, and mounting into the air with screams of exultation. These are the signals for our hero, who, launching into the air, instantly gives chase, soon gains on the fish-hawk; each exerts his utmost to mount above the other, displaying in these rencontres the most elegant and sublime aerial evolutions. The unincumbered Eagle rapidly advances, and is just on the point of reaching his opponent, when, with a sudden scream, probably of despair and honest execration, the latter drops his fish; the Eagle, poising himself for a moment, as if to take a more certain aim, descends like a whirlwind, snatches it in his grasp ere it reaches the water, and bears his ill gotten booty silently away to the woods.”

THE
BEARDED GRIFFIN, OR LAMMER-GEYER.



THESE birds are among the fiercest and most powerful of Eagles. They form their nests in the clefts of rocks inaccessible to man, and usually produce three or four young ones at a time. They inhabit the Alps, and subsist on animals, such as chamois, white hares, marmots, kids, and particularly lambs. It is from their devouring the latter that they are called, by the Swiss peasants, Lammer-geyer, or lamb-vultures. The Bearded Eagles seldom appear except in small parties, usually consisting of the two old birds and their young ones.

THE OSPREY, OR FISHING HAWK.

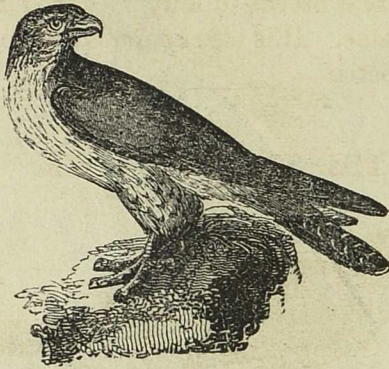


THE length of this bird is two feet, its breadth, from tip to tip, about five. The outer toe, or talon, is larger than the inner one, and turns easily backward, by means of which it is enabled to secure its slippery prey. Its haunts are on the sea-shore, and along the borders of lakes. Fish are its principal food, and it descends upon them with great swiftness and undeviating aim. It is a very common bird in Europe and America.

THE FALCON.

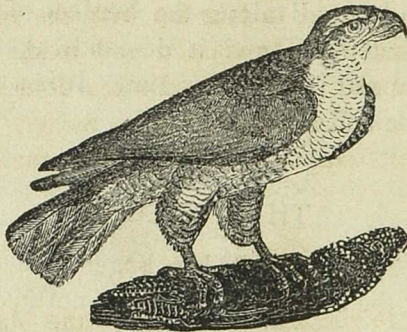
THIS very elegant bird, which is larger than the goshawk, is a native of the cold climates of the north, and is found in Russia, Norway, and Iceland; but it is never seen in warm, and seldom in temperate climates; it is found, though rarely, in Scotland and the Orkneys. Next to the eagle, it is the most formidable, active, and intrepid of all voracious birds, and is most esteemed for falconry. It

boldly attacks the largest of the feathered race ; the stork, the heron, and the crane, are easy victims ; it kills hares by darting directly upon them. The female, as in all other



birds of prey, is much larger and stronger than the male, and is used in falconry to catch the kite, the heron, and the crow.

THE GOSHAWK.

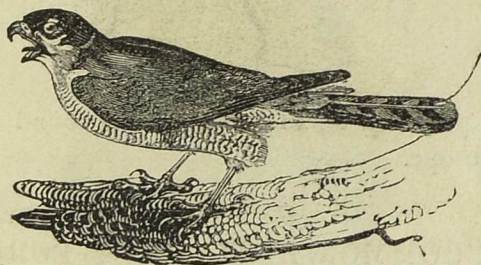


THIS bird is somewhat longer than the buzzard, but more slender and beautiful, and is one foot ten inches in length. It feeds on mice and small birds, and eagerly devours raw flesh ; it plucks the birds very neatly, and tears them into

pieces before it eats them, but swallows the pieces entire; and frequently disgorges the hair rolled up in small pellets.

The Goshawk is found in France and Germany; it is not very numerous in England, but is more frequent in Scotland; where it breeds in lofty trees, and destroys large quantities of game. It is also common in North America, Russia, and Siberia.

THE SPARROWHAWK.



THIS bird is somewhat larger than a common pigeon. It is very numerous in various parts of the world. The female builds in high rocks, lofty ruins, or hollow trees, but will sometimes condescend to take up with the old nest of a crow. It is more easily trained and made docile than most of the rapacious tribes, and when domesticated it is susceptible of great attachment to its owner. In its wild state, it commits enormous havoc among the smaller race of birds.

THE MERLIN.

THE Merlin is in size little larger than the blackbird, and is consequently the smallest of the hawk kind. The quill-feathers are dark, the breast and belly are of a yellowish white. Small as it is, this bird is not inferior in courage to any of the falcon tribe. It was formerly used for taking

larks, partridges, and quails, which it would frequently kill by a single blow, striking them on the breast, head, or



neck. It preys on small birds, and is found in various parts of Europe.

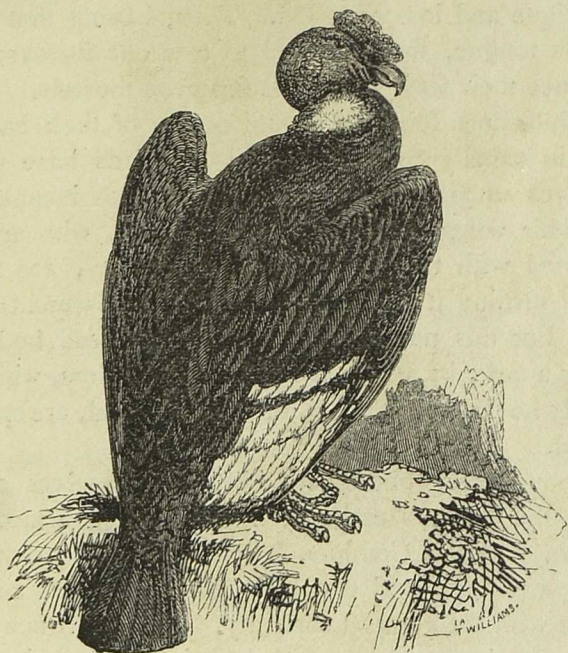
THE COMMON BUZZARD OF EUROPE.



THIS bird is about twenty inches in length; the upper parts of its body are of a brown colour, the lower pale, variegated with brown. There are scarcely two of them coloured alike. The Buzzard is very indolent and cow-

ardly, and will frequently fly before a sparrowhawk, and will tamely suffer itself to be beaten and brought to the ground without resistance. It is said that if the female is killed during incubation, the male very patiently takes her place, and rears the young till they are able to provide for themselves. It feeds on birds, small quadrupeds, reptiles, and insects, and is an inhabitant of the eastern hemisphere.

THE CONDOR.



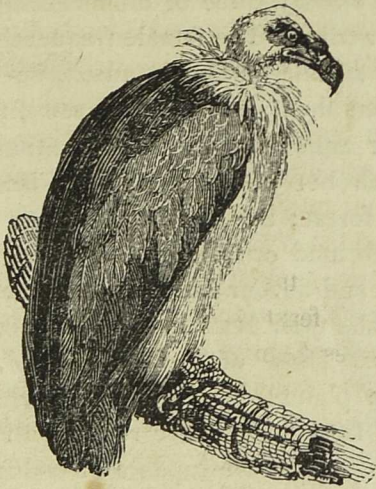
THE Condor, which is the largest bird of flight, inhabits the regions of the Andes in South America. Its wings, when expanded, measure from nine to fourteen feet from point to point; its beak is hooked; its legs very powerful; its colour black, slightly mixed with gray; its length, from the top of the beak to the extremity of the tail, is three and a half to four feet.

The habits of the Condor partake of the bold ferocity of the eagle, and of the disgusting filthiness of the vulture. Although, like the latter, it appears to prefer the dead carcass, it frequently makes war upon a living prey; but the gripe of its talons is not sufficiently firm to enable it to carry off its victim through the air. Two of these birds, acting in concert, will frequently attack a puma, a llama, a calf, or even a full grown cow. They will pursue the poor animal with unwearied pertinacity, lacerating it incessantly with their beaks and talons, until it falls exhausted with fatigue and loss of blood. Then, having first seized upon its tongue, they proceed to tear out its eyes, and commence their feast with these favourite morsels.

The intestines form the second course of their banquet, which is usually continued until the birds have gorged themselves so fully as to render themselves incapable of using their wings in flight. The Indians, who are well acquainted with this effect of their voracity, are in the habit of turning it to account for their amusement in the chase. For this purpose they expose the dead body of a horse or a cow, by which some of the Condors, which are generally hovering in the air, in search of food, are speedily attracted.

As soon as the birds have glutted themselves on the carcass, the Indians make their appearance armed with the lasso, and the Condors, being unable to escape by flight, are pursued and caught by means of these singular weapons with the greatest certainty. This sport is a peculiar favourite in the country, where it is held in a degree of estimation second to that of a bull-fight alone.

THE VULTURE.



OF this class of birds the principal are the Golden or Carrion Vulture, the Aquiline or Egyptian Vulture, the Cape Vulture, and the Brazilian Vulture. In one point they all have a perfect resemblance; they are filthy, indolent, and rapacious, and the smell of them is offensive. The Golden Vulture is about four feet long, from the end of the beak to that of the tail. The head and neck are only covered with a few scattered hairs, and the latter is covered with a red skin, which at a distance gives to the creature the look of a turkey; and the eyes are more prominent than those of the eagle. The whole plumage is dusky, mixed with purple and green.

Though unknown in England, the Vulture is common in many parts of Europe; and in Egypt, Arabia, and many other kingdoms of Africa and Asia, he is found in great abundance. In Egypt, and particularly in Grand Cairo, there are great flocks of them, which render a most important service to the inhabitants, by devouring all the

filth and carrion, which might otherwise render the air pestilential.

In Brazil these birds may be deemed peculiarly serviceable, from the circumstance of their checking the increase of the alligator tribe. The female frequently lays her eggs, to the number of one or two hundred, on the side of the river, and covers them carefully with sand, to conceal them from all other animals. In the meantime a number of Vultures watch her motions from the branches of some neighbouring forest; and, on her retiring, they encourage each other with loud cries, pour down upon the spot, lay the eggs bare, and devour them in a few moments.

Vultures make their nests in the most remote and inaccessible rocks. Those of Europe, indeed, seldom come down into the plains, except when the rigours of winter have banished from their native retreats all living animals but themselves. They are capable of enduring hunger for an extraordinary length of time.

Mr. Pringle makes the following remarks regarding the Vultures in South Africa:—"These fowls divide with the hyænas the office of carrion scavengers; and the promptitude with which they discover and devour every dead carcass is truly surprising. They also instinctively follow any band of hunters, or party of men travelling, especially in solitary places, wheeling in circles high in the air, ready to pounce down upon any game that may be shot and not instantly secured, or the carcass of any ox or other animal that may perish on the road. In a field of battle in South Africa no one ever buries the dead; the Vultures and beasts of prey relieve the living of that trouble."

Mr. Burchell, speaking of the office of Vultures in hot regions, says, "Vultures have been ordained evidently to perform very necessary and useful duties on the globe; as, indeed, has every other animated being, however purblind we may be in our views of their utility; and we might almost venture to declare that those duties are the final

cause of their existence. To those who have had an opportunity of examining these birds, it need not be remarked how perfectly the formation of a Vulture is adapted to that share in the daily business of the globe which has been allotted to it—that of clearing away putrid or putrescent animal matter, which might otherwise taint the air, and produce infectious disease.”

The Vulture is enabled to perform these duties, in countries of great extent and thinly scattered population, principally from his extraordinary powers of sight. The wonderful extent of vision of this bird's eye is shown in the following instance. “In the year 1778, Mr. Baber, and several other gentlemen, were on a hunting party, in the island of Cossimbuzar, in Bengal, about fifteen miles north of the city of Murshedabad.

“They killed a wild hog of uncommon size, and left it on the ground near the tent. An hour after, walking near the spot where it lay, the sky perfectly clear, a dark spot in the air at a great distance attracted their attention. It appeared to increase in size, and move directly towards them; as it advanced, it proved to be a Vulture flying in a direct line to the dead hog. In an hour seventy others came in all directions, which induced Mr. Baber to remark, ‘this cannot be smell.’”

THE TURKEY BUZZARD, OR TURKEY VULTURE.

THIS bird is larger than a raven, and is very common in the warm parts of America. It is very rarely seen in New England; but in South Carolina, Georgia, and farther south, it is abundant. It remains throughout the year as far north as Delaware and Maryland.

It lives on filth and putrid flesh, and is so useful in clearing away offensive substances, as to be protected by law in the southern cities. They are foul birds, and exceedingly voracious, and sometimes gorge themselves with

food in such a manner as to be unable to fly. They breed in solitary swamps, making their nests on decayed trunks of trees and excavated stumps. If a person takes one of the young ones in his hands, he immediately vomits forth such abominable matter, as soon to drive the intruder away. The old birds, when caught, drive off their enemy in a similar way.

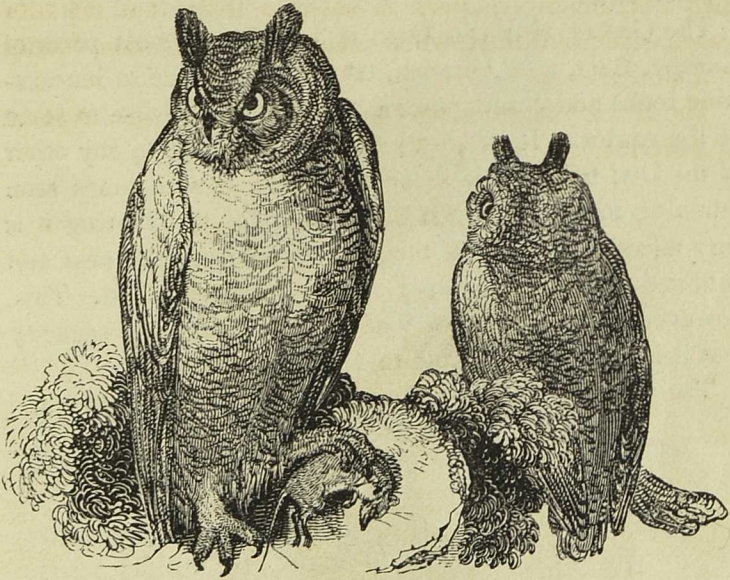
The Black Vulture is also common in the tropical regions of America.

THE KITE.



THIS bird is of the hawk kind, but of an ignoble class. He is easily distinguished from any other bird of prey by his forked tail, and the slow and circular eddies he describes in the air, whenever he spies, from the regions of the clouds, a young duck or a chicken strayed too far from the brood; when, pouncing on it with the rapidity of a dart, he seizes it in his talons, and carries it up to destroy it without mercy. He is larger than the common buzzard; and, though he weighs somewhat less than three pounds, the extent of his wings is more than five feet. The head and back are of a pale ash-colour. It is found in various parts of Europe.

THE OWL.



OF Owls there are about fifty species, of which, however, it is not necessary here to notice more than three: the Great Horned or Eagle Owl, the Screech Owl, and the Brown or Hoot Owl. Generally speaking, they prey only in the night-time. The head of the Owl is round, somewhat like that of a cat, of which animal, indeed, the bird has all the mice-destroying propensities. The eyes also of the Owl, like those of the cat, are so constructed that its visual faculties are far more perfect in the dusk than in the glare of day. Owls retire in the winter to holes in old walls and towers, and pass the inclement season in sleep. In most countries the Owl is foolishly considered as a bird of ill omen.

The SCREECH OWL frequents old houses and uninhabited buildings. The singular cry which it emits during its flight, and which weak persons cannot hear without terror, is the source of its name. As its sight is very defective

during the day, it never, if it can avoid it, begins its predatory excursions till twilight. If, by chance, it is seen in the day-time, it is pursued and tormented by all the smaller birds.

The GREAT HORNED OWL is a native of most parts of Europe, Asia, and America, takes up its abode in inaccessible rocks and desert places, and is equal in size to some of the eagles. It possesses a stronger sight than any other of the Owl tribe, and, in consequence, is sometimes seen pursuing its prey in open daylight. To its offspring it is very affectionate, and if they are taken from the nest and confined, it will assiduously supply them with food. This, however, it accomplishes with such secrecy and sagacity that it is almost impossible to detect it in the act.

The BROWN, or HOOT OWL, is common in Europe and



America, and is rather more than a foot in length. The breast is of a pale ash-colour, marked with dusky streaks; and the head, wings, and back, are spotted with black. This is a very rapacious bird, and frequently commits great depredations in pigeon-houses. It breeds in ruined buildings and hollow trees, and, in defence of its young, will attack even mankind with great courage. Mice are among its favourite articles of food, and it skins them with as much dexterity as a cook-maid skins a rabbit.

THE RAVEN.



THE Raven is upwards of two feet in length, and above four in breadth. His weight is about three pounds. The bill is strong, black, and hooked. The plumage of the whole body is of a shining black, glossed with deep blue; yet the black of the belly inclines to a dusky colour. He is of a strong and hardy disposition, and inhabits all climates of the globe. He builds his nest in trees, and the female lays five or six eggs of a palish green colour, spotted with brown. He is common in most countries; but is seldom seen in America, except as far west as Lake Erie.

The life of this bird extends to a century, and above, if we can believe the accounts of several naturalists on the subject. The Raven unites the voracious appetite of the crow to the dishonesty of the daw, and the docility of almost every other bird. He feeds chiefly on small animals; and is said to destroy rabbits, young ducks, and chickens, and sometimes even lambs. In the northern regions he preys in concert with the white bear, the arctic fox, and the eagle. He devours the eggs of other birds, and eats shore-fish and shell-fish; with the latter he soars

into the air, and drops them from on high to break the shells, and thus gets at the contents.

The Raven possesses many diverting and mischievous qualities; he is active, curious, sagacious, and impudent; by nature a glutton, by habit a thief, in disposition a miser, and in practice a rogue. He is fond of picking up small pieces of money, bits of glass, or any thing that shines, and conceals it carefully under the eaves of roofs, or in any other inaccessible place. He is easily tamed.

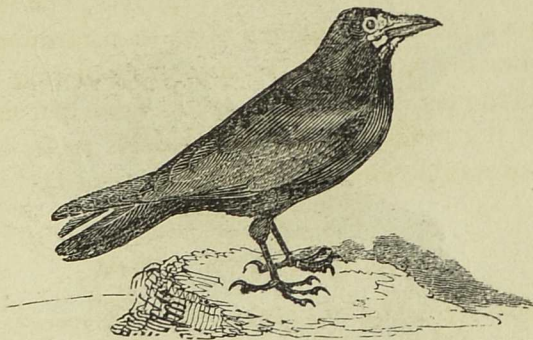
THE COMMON CROW.

THIS bird resembles the raven in most respects, except that he is about one-third smaller. He is much more common than the raven. His disposition seems to be social, for he assembles in flocks, and fills the forests with his rough notes. He is a great thief, often stealing the Indian corn that is planted by the farmer, and stripping the ears when ripe. There are various devices, called scare-crows, for driving him away, and not unfrequently the cast-off hat, coat, and pantaloons of the farmer, stuffed with straw and supported upon a stick, are seen effectually guarding the corn-fields from his depredations.

The Crow is a sly and sagacious bird, and it is so difficult to approach him with a gun, that people in the country suppose that he can smell gunpowder. When several of these birds are feeding upon the ground, one is stationed on a tree, or other elevated position, as a sentinel. If any thing suspicious appears, it is intimated by the vidette, by several sharp cries. If the danger becomes imminent, the alarm is given, and they all take to flight.

The Crow is frequently tamed; and, when his tongue is divided, he is capable of being taught to articulate some words as distinctly as a parrot. The American and European Crow are alike, except that the voice of the former is fuller, and more like the bark of a dog.

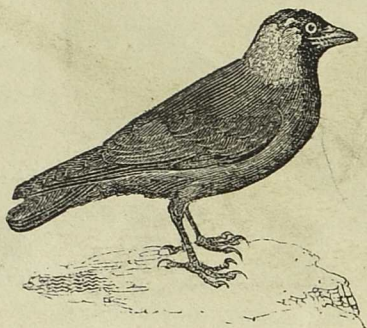
THE ROOK.



Rooks are not found in America, but are very common in Europe. They inhabit the forests, and immense flocks of them are seen wheeling in the air above the trees, sending, at the same time, their discordant music far and wide over the landscape. An American would at first imagine them to be emigrant crows from his own country, for the two birds are about the same size; but, on closer inspection, the plumage of the Rook is seen to be more glossy.

Rooks are very abundant in England, and it is common to see groups of forest trees near gentlemen's houses given up to the sole occupancy of these birds. Here they build their nests, rear their young, keep up an incessant cawing, quarrel and make peace as in all other large communities. If a new comer appears among them, he is generally received in a very rough manner. At Newcastle, in England, a pair of Rooks attempted to introduce themselves into a rookery, but were so rudely treated, that, in high dudgeon, they ascended to the steeple of one of the public buildings, and built their nest on the vane. Here they lived for several successive seasons, turning about with every change of wind, and regardless of the busy scene in the town beneath.

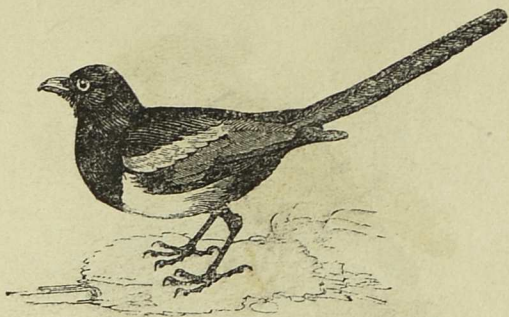
THE JACKDAW.



THIS bird, which is abundant in Europe, is much less than the crow. He has a large head and long bill in proportion to the bigness of his body. The colour of the plumage is black, but in some parts inclining to a bluish hue. He feeds upon nuts, fruits, seeds, and insects; and builds in ancient castles, ruins, and cliffs. In general appearance he resembles the blackbird.

Jackdaws are easily tamed, and may with little difficulty be taught to pronounce several words. They conceal such parts of their food as they cannot eat, and often along with it small pieces of money or toys, frequently occasioning, for the moment, suspicions of theft in persons who are innocent.

THE MAGPIE.



THE Magpie resembles the daw, except that the breast and wings are white, and the tail very long. The black of his feathers is accompanied with a changing gloss of green and purple. It is a very loquacious creature, and can be brought to imitate the human voice as well as any parrot.

The Magpie feeds on every thing; worms, insects, meat, and cheese, bread and milk, all kinds of seeds, and also on small birds, when they come in his way; the young of the blackbird, and of the thrush, and even a strayed chicken, often fall a prey to his rapacity. He is fond of hiding pieces of money or wearing apparel, which he carries away by stealth, and with much dexterity, to his hole. His cunning is also remarked in the manner of making his nest, which he covers all over with thorny branches, leaving only one hole for his ingress and egress, securing, in that manner, his brood from the attack of his enemies. He is found in Europe, and in the western parts of North America.

THE BLUE JAY.



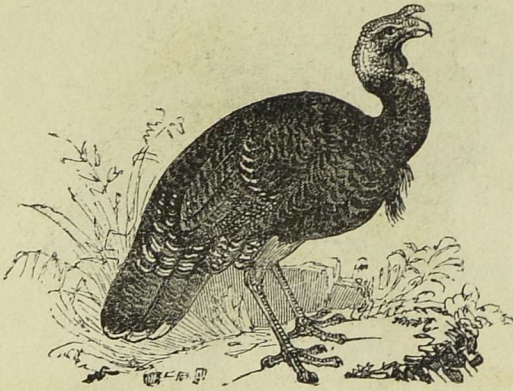
THIS elegant bird, which is peculiar to North America, is distinguished, says Wilson, as a kind of beau among the feathered tenants of our woods, by the brilliancy of his dress, and, like most other coxcombs, makes himself still more conspicuous by his loquacity, and the oddness of his tones and gestures. He measures eleven inches in length; the head is surmounted with a crest of light blue or purple feathers, which he can elevate or depress at pleasure.

The Blue Jay is an almost universal inhabitant of the woods, frequenting the thickest settlements, as well as the deepest recesses of the forest, where his squalling voice often alarms the deer, to the disappointment and mortification of the hunter.

In the charming season of spring, when every thicket pours forth harmony, the part performed by the Jay always catches the ear. He appears to be among his fellow musicians what the trumpeter is in a band, some of his notes having no distant resemblance to the tones of that instrument.

The Blue Jay builds a large nest, frequently in the cedar, and lives on chestnuts and acorns.

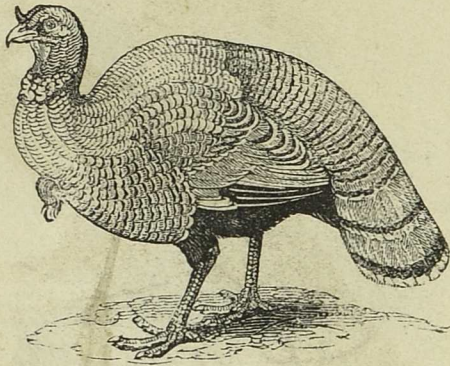
THE WILD TURKEY.



THIS noble bird used to be common in all parts of America, but it is fast diminishing, and is now seldom found except in the western territories. It is often larger than the domestic turkey; it goes in flocks, and feeds on grain, seeds, fruits, &c. It is the original stock of the domestic turkey. The colour of the males, called gobblers by the hunters, is a dark brown.

Mr. Charles Lucien Bonaparte has given a long and interesting account of this bird. He says they sometimes fly across broad rivers, by ascending the tallest trees on one side, and the whole flock then starting together. Some of the younger and weaker ones are occasionally drowned.

THE DOMESTIC TURKEY.



THE wild turkey was first carried to Europe and other parts of the eastern continent and domesticated many years after the discovery of America. It is said to have obtained the name of Turkey from its being introduced when it was the custom to derive many of the luxuries of life from that country. It is now extensively diffused over the world, and its flesh is ranked among the most delicious poultry.

The cock is a cowardly fellow, strutting about, and displaying his plumage with great ostentation; he is also very noisy and quarrelsome. The hen seems to possess a more modest and retiring disposition, wandering about the fields with a melancholy and dejected air, occasionally uttering a short plaintive note. She is exceedingly attached to her young, but leads them away from danger without ever attempting to defend them by repelling an attack.

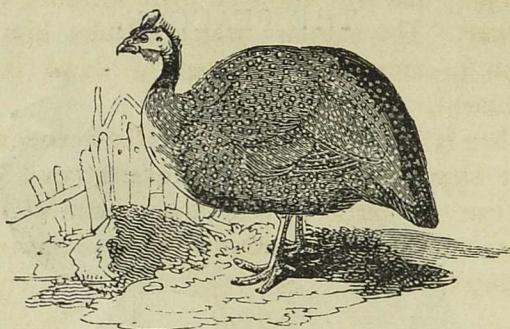
THE PEACOCK.



THE plumage of this bird is more gorgeous and beautiful than that of any other of the feathered race. Its form is also elegant; and, as if conscious of these personal advantages, it often spreads its gaudy tail and marches about with a pompous step, apparently vain of its beauty, and anxious to display to the eye of the beholder its rich and changing hues. The female, or peahen, is smaller, and by no means as beautiful.

The Peacock is nearly a useless bird, and his voice is as discordant as the filing of a saw. It was first brought from India, and is now found in nearly all countries. It is said to grow larger, and to possess more magnificent plumage in its native climate than in other regions. It is mentioned among the importations of Solomon from the East. In the days of chivalry it was in such high repute as to be the subject of a knightly oath.

THE PINTADO, OR GUINEA FOWL.



THIS bird is a native of Africa, but is now common in a domestic state, both in Europe and America. Its head is small, its back very much arched, its legs long, its colour black, thickly spotted with white. At a little distance its general hue seems to be a grayish blue. It has a harsh, clanging cry, which is exceedingly disagreeable. It is very prolific in the production of eggs, and its flesh is esteemed a great delicacy. Among the Romans it brought a high price.

THE DOMESTIC COCK.



THIS noble bird was first brought from Asia, but is now diffused over most parts of the civilized world. He possesses very beautiful and variegated plumage, a fine form,

and a courageous spirit. He is very attentive and gallant to the hens, and will allow no male intruder to mix with his retinue. The sagacity which enables him with such precision to announce the hour of dawn* is matter of astonishment.

The hen is a most useful fowl. Her devotion in hatching her eggs, and her spirit, industry, and courage in taking care of her chickens, are worthy of admiration. With her train of little followers she presents an extremely interesting spectacle.

THE PHEASANT.



THE Pheasant of Europe, in shape and plumage, is one of the most elegant of birds. It was originally brought from the banks of the river Phasis in Asia-Minor, whence it derives its name. In shape it resembles the wild pigeon of America, its tail being eighteen inches in length. It is beautifully marked with various brilliant hues. It is never completely domesticated, but lives generally in the forests. They are often seen in the parks of the rich in England. An American feels a strong emotion of surprise and pleasure when he first looks on one of these noble birds. The

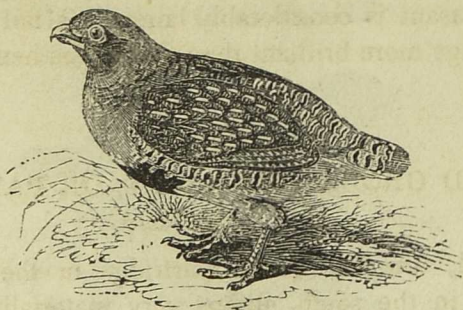
flesh is esteemed a great delicacy, and the hunting of it is a favourite sport with the gentlemen in England. The cock Pheasant is considerably larger, his tail longer, and his plumage more brilliant than that of the hen Pheasant.

THE

RUFFED GROUSE, PHEASANT, OR PARTRIDGE
OF AMERICA.

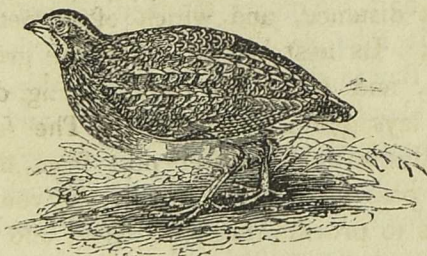
THIS bird, which is called partridge in the north, and pheasant in the south, differs very materially from both the Pheasant and Partridge of Europe. It is considerably inferior in size, and less brilliant in plumage than the first, and the tail is longer, and the general shape more slender than that of the latter. It is very abundant in the forests of America, where it remains throughout the winter. It has a practice of drumming with its wings upon the decayed trunks of trees, thus making a noise which is heard at a great distance, and which often betrays it to the sportsmen. Its nest is built upon the ground, is made very deep, and is placed in a sloping direction. The Partridge lays about fifteen eggs. The female employs various wiles to conceal her nest from those who may chance to pass by. In the care of her young, she is very industrious to provide them with food, and ingenious and artful in securing them from threatened danger. A Partridge with her young brood is one of the most beautiful and interesting spectacles which an American forest can present.

THE PARTRIDGE OF EUROPE.



THIS bird is about thirteen inches in length. The general colour of the plumage is brown and ash, elegantly mixed with black. In habits it is nearly the same as the quail. They are both equally esteemed as luxuries for the table.

THE QUAIL.



THIS beautiful bird, which is too well known to need description, is called partridge in the south of the American States, and Quail in New England and Europe. It is common in the grain fields and copses, and often startles the pedestrian, by bursting suddenly from a stubble or a thicket upon his view. A flock of Quails, when they start upon the wing, make a very loud whirring noise with their wings. The whistle of this bird is well known, and is always associated with the most agreeable ideas of nature and the country.

THE WOOD THRUSH.

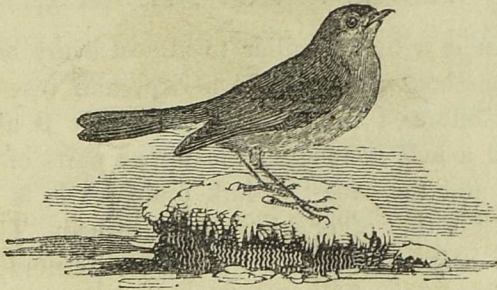


THIS bird is about eight inches in length. The upper parts are of a brown yellowish colour, and the throat and breast white, tinged with a light buff colour, and beautifully marked with pointed spots of a black or dusky colour. It is called by some the Wood Robin, and Red or Brown Thrasher, and by others the Little Thrush and Ground Robin. It inhabits the whole of North America from Hudson's Bay to the peninsula of Florida. It arrives in the north about the middle of April, and returns south about the beginning of October.

The favourite haunts of the Wood Thrush are low, thick shaded hollows, through which a small brook or rill meanders. Here it generally builds its nest, and lays four or five eggs of a light blue colour. It is seen always singly or in pairs, and is of a shy, retired, unobtrusive disposition. With the modesty of true merit he charms you with his song, but is content and even solicitous to be concealed. The powers of song in some individuals of the Wood Thrush have often surprised and delighted the hearer. With the dawn of morning, mounting on the top of some tall tree that rises from a low thickly shaded part of the woods, he pipes his few but clear and musical notes in a kind of ecstasy, a part of his song resembling the sound of

the German flute, and the whole so finely managed, and possessing such charming effect, as to soothe and tranquillize the mind, and to seem sweeter at every successive repetition.

THE REDBREAST.



THE Redbreast is found in Europe, principally in England, Norway, and Germany, and is a great favourite. The upper parts of its body are brown, and its neck and breast are of a fine deep reddish orange. During the summer the Redbreast is rarely to be seen; it retires to woods and thickets, where, with its mate, it prepares for the accommodation of its future family. Its nest is placed near the ground, by the roots of trees, in the most concealed spot, and sometimes in old buildings: it is constructed of moss, intermixed with hair and dried leaves, and lined with feathers. The Redbreast prefers the thick shade, where there is water: it feeds on insects and worms, but never eats them alive. As soon as the young are sufficiently grown to provide for themselves, the Redbreast leaves his retirement, and again draws near the habitations of mankind. His well known familiarity has attracted the attention and secured the protection of man in all ages; he haunts the dwelling of the cottager, and partakes of his humble fare; when the cold grows severe, and snow covers the ground, he approaches the house, taps at the window

with his bill, as if to entreat an asylum, which is cheerfully granted, and with a simplicity the most delightful hops round the house, picks up crumbs, and seems to make himself one of the family. They are never seen in flocks, but always singly.

THE ROBIN OF AMERICA.

THE Robin is a bird familiar to almost every one. It is found throughout all North America, and resembles the English Redbreast in many respects. It is about nine inches and a half in length; the upper parts of the body are black, and the breast a dark orange. It is a bird of passage, like the other kinds of thrushes. The Robin builds his nest often on an apple tree, plasters it on the inside with mud, and lays five eggs of a beautiful sea green. His principal food is berries, worms, and caterpillars. He is one of our earliest songsters, and early in April is to be seen in pairs, and singing earnestly, though not as sweetly as the wood thrush. His notes in spring are universally known and listened to with pleasure, as they seem to be the prelude to the grand general concert, that is about to burst upon us from woods, fields, and thickets, whitened with blossoms, and sending fragrance in the air. These interesting birds are frequently kept in cages, and are pleasant and cheerful companions.

THE BLUE BIRD.

THE Blue Bird is about seven inches long; the whole upper parts of aerial sky-blue, the under parts whitish. It is found over the whole of the United States, in the Bahama Islands, where many of them winter, and also in Mexico, Brazil, and Guiana. Though generally accounted a bird of passage, yet so early as the middle of February, or March, if the weather be open, he usually makes his

appearance about his old haunts, the barn, orchard, and fence posts. Storms and deep snows sometimes succeeding, he disappears for a time, but is soon seen again accompanied by his mate, visiting the box in the garden, or the hole in the old apple tree, the cradle of some generations of his ancestors. The female lays five and sometimes six eggs of a pale blue colour, and raises two or three broods in a season. His principal food is insects, particularly large beetles; spiders are also a favourite repast with him. The usual spring and summer song of the Blue Bird is a soft, agreeable, and oft repeated warble, uttered with open, quivering wings, and is extremely pleasing. In his motions and general character he has a great resemblance to the redbreast. Like him, he is known to almost every child, and his society is courted by the inhabitants of the country.

THE KING BIRD.

THE King Bird is small, but of a fearless disposition, attacking hawks, crows, and even the bald eagle, when he generally has the best of the battle. The upper part of his body is black, and the lower of a delicate white. His only song is a sort of shrill twittering, resembling the jingling of a bunch of keys.

In pastures he often takes his stand on the top of a mullein stalk near the cattle, making occasional sweeps to devour the passing insects and flies, and then returning to the same station. He is of the fly-catcher tribe, and is sometimes known by the name of Tyrant Fly Catcher.

Though this bird is a source of much good to the husbandman in protecting his corn-fields from the crows, the honey cultivator considers him a great pest, because he destroys the bees; and he therefore charges the boys to destroy every King Bird's nest they can find.

THE CAT BIRD.

THE colour of this bird is ash, its size a little less than that of the robin. It is common in our woods, and often startles a person who is passing a thicket, by a sudden cry like that of a cat. He is a great plunderer of early fruit, and on this account is sure to get a stone hurled at him by every boy to whom he shows his head.

THE MOCKING BIRD.



THE Mocking Bird is about the size of the American robin, and in shape somewhat resembles it. The following description is furnished by Wilson.

“The plumage of the Mocking Bird, though none of the homeliest, has nothing gaudy or brilliant in it, and, had he nothing else to recommend him, would scarcely entitle him to notice; but his figure is well proportioned, and even handsome. The ease, elegance, and rapidity of his movements, the animation of his eye, and the intelligence he displays in listening, and laying up lessons from almost every species of the feathered creation within his hearing, are really surprising, and mark the peculiarity of his genius.

“In his native groves, mounted upon the top of a tall

bush or half grown tree, in the dawn of a dewy morning, while the woods are already vocal with a multitude of warblers, his admirable song rises preeminent over every competitor. The ear can listen to his music alone, to which that of all the others seems a mere accompaniment.

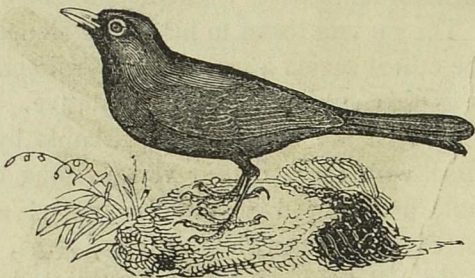
“Neither is this strain altogether imitative. His own native notes, which are easily distinguishable by such as are acquainted with those of our various song birds, are bold and full, and varied seemingly beyond all limits. They consist of short expressions of two, three, or at the most five or six syllables, generally interspersed with imitations, and all of them uttered with great emphasis and rapidity, and continued with undiminished ardour for half an hour, or an hour, at a time. His expanded wings and tail, glistening with white, and the buoyant gaiety of his action, arresting the eye, as his song most irresistibly does the ear. He sweeps round with enthusiastic ecstasy. He mounts and descends as his song swells or dies away; ‘he bounds aloft with the celerity of an arrow, as if to recover or recall his very soul, which expired in the last elevated strain.’ ”

This admirable bird is a native of America, and is found in Virginia and other southern states. When domesticated he is easily taught artificial tunes, and of himself will frequently repeat from a flute snatches of a waltz or other tune that pleases him.

THE BLACKBIRD OF EUROPE.

THIS beautiful and well known songster is one of the first that proclaims the genial spring, and his note, when heard at a distance, is the most pleasing of all the grove; though it is rather unpleasant in a cage, being loud and deafening. His strains are continued from early dawn till late in the

dusk. It is a solitary bird, generally found in sequestered woods, or other retired situations. It feeds on worms,



snails, and insects. It dexterously dislodges snails from their shells by dashing them on the stones.

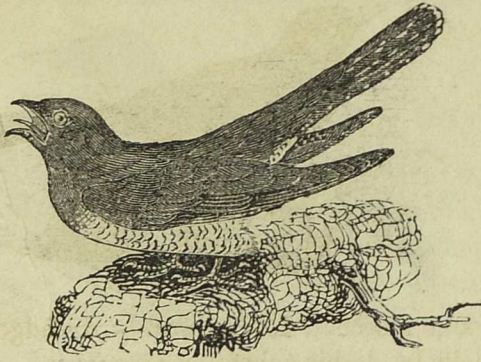
THE BLACKBIRD OF AMERICA

RESEMBLES the preceding, but, instead of retiring to the forests, it seeks the orchards, and seems fond of the neighbourhood of houses. It is often seen following the ploughshare, looking for worms in the fresh furrows, and frequently, like the crow, steals the planted maize or Indian corn from the hill. In the autumn they gather in vast flocks, and sometimes produce a roar like the rush of a waterfall by their flight.

THE CUCKOO.

THE Cuckoo of Europe and that of America are similar in their habits and appearance, but the former is larger, and his song, in which he repeats very distinctly the word cuckoo, is much sweeter and more plaintive than that of the transatlantic bird. The melody of both is monotonous, yet it is always heard with pleasure, because it is inseparably connected with our ideas of reviving spring. When singing, the bird is very seldom seen, as his shyness in-

duces him to hide himself in thickets. There is a popular superstition in England, that he who hears the Cuckoo

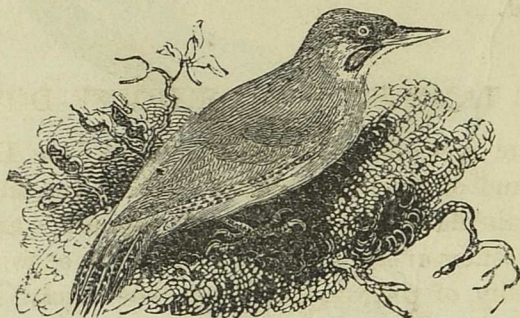


before he has heard the nightingale, will be unsuccessful in love. It is to this superstition that Milton alludes, in his beautiful Sonnet to the Nightingale:—

O Nightingale, that on yon bloomy spray
 Warblest at eve, when all the woods are still;
 Thou with fresh hopes the lover's heart dost fill,
 While the jolly hours lead on propitious May.
 Thy liquid notes that close the eye of day,
 First heard before the shallow Cuckoo's bill,
 Portend success in love; O, if Jove's will
 Have linked that amorous power to thy soft lay,
 Now timely sing, ere the rude bird of hate
 Foretell my hopeless doom in some grove nigh;
 As thou from year to year hast sung too late
 For my relief, yet hadst no reason why:
 Whether the Muse, or Love, call thee his mate,
 Both them I serve, and of their train am I.

The European Cuckoo is supposed to build no nest; and, what is extraordinary, the female Cuckoo deposits her solitary egg in the nest of another bird, by which it is hatched.

THE RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.



THIS bird is well known as an inhabitant of the American woods, and as a frequent visiter of the cherry-trees in the season of fruit. He makes his nest by digging with his beak into the trunk or limb of some decayed tree, forming a circular cavity, in which the eggs are deposited and the young ones hatched.

Although he is fond of fruit, and often devours great quantities of Indian corn, when in the milk, yet he lives chiefly on insects. His sagacity in finding them is astonishing. He climbs along the trunks of trees, and discovers by the appearance of the bark where the insect is lurking. If he is doubtful, he drums and rattles with his beak vehemently on the spot, and his acute ear distinguishes his terrified victim within, shrinking to his utmost retreat, where his pointed and barbed tongue soon reaches him. The multitude of caterpillars, bugs, and worms, which one of these birds devours in a day, is surprising.

THE RING-DOVE, OR CUSHAT,

Is usually known as the wood pigeon. It is of a pale chocolate or cream colour, with a black ringlet, with white edges, round the neck: the breed is common in Europe.

Its habits are like those of other birds of the tribe ; but it is so strongly attached to its native freedom, that all attempts to domesticate it, with few exceptions, have hitherto proved ineffectual.

THE TAME PIGEON, OR HOUSE DOVE.

THERE are upwards of twenty varieties of the Domestic Pigeon, and of these the carriers are the most celebrated. They obtain their name from being sometimes employed to convey letters or small packets from one place to another. The rapidity of their flight is very wonderful. Lithgow assures us, that one of them will carry a letter from Babylon to Aleppo, which, to a man, is usually thirty days' journey, in forty-eight hours. To measure their speed with some degree of exactness, a gentleman some years ago, on a trifling wager, sent a Carrier Pigeon from London by the coach, to a friend at Bury St. Edmunds, and along with it a note, desiring that the Pigeon, two days after its arrival there, might be thrown up precisely when the town clock struck nine in the morning.

This was accordingly done, and the Pigeon arrived in London at half past eleven o'clock of the same morning, having flown seventy-two miles in two hours and a half. From the instant of its liberation, its flight is directed through the clouds at an amazing height, to its home. By an instinct altogether inconceivable, it darts onward, in a straight line, to the very spot whence it was taken ; but how it can direct its flight so exactly will probably ever remain unknown to us.

THE TURTLE-DOVE.



THIS bird is common in Europe. Its general colour is a bluish gray; the breast and neck of a kind of whitish purple, with a ringlet of beautiful white feathers with black edges about the neck. Nothing can express the sensation which is excited in the mind when the plaintive notes of the Turtle-dove breathe from the grove on a beautiful spring evening.

THE CAROLINA PIGEON, OR TURTLE-DOVE
OF AMERICA,

RESEMBLES the wild pigeon so nearly, as often to be taken for the same. It is, however, one-fourth smaller, and may be distinguished by a peculiar whistling of the wing when it flies. It is often seen in the road during summer. Its habits are like those of the European Turtle-dove; its notes are very similar, though less melodious.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON, OR WILD PIGEON
OF AMERICA.

THE Passenger Pigeon is sixteen inches long, and twenty-four in extent. The head and part of the neck is of a slate blue; the throat, breast, and sides are a reddish hazel; the

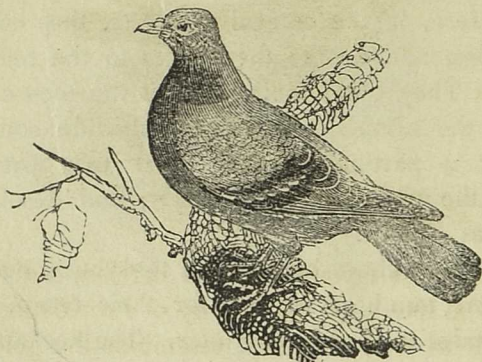
other parts of the body are variegated with various rich colours.

In the spring multitudes of these birds are seen on the wing, speeding to the northern and western regions of the continent. Here, in the extensive forests, they collect in vast companies, and devote themselves to the rearing of their young. They build their nests in the tops of trees, and such is the almost incredible multitude sometimes assembled at a particular place, that they break the branches of the trees by their weight, and desolate the forest for miles around.

Towards autumn these birds, with the young ones now added to their number, set out for their return to the southern latitudes to spend the winter. The flocks that are sometimes seen, particularly in the Western States of America, contain many millions. A continued stream, for several miles in width, and many hours in duration, is often seen to pour along the air, sweeping forward with almost incredible swiftness. In passing and repassing, a few of these birds are shot, or taken in nets, in the Atlantic States; in the western and northern regions of the continent, they are so numerous as to be taken in great abundance. The inhabitants, when they discover one of their roosting places, visit them by night, and fill their sacks with those they knock down with poles. The Indians also destroy great numbers of them.

Several years ago there was a breeding place of pigeons in Kentucky, which occupied the forests for several miles in width, and about forty miles in length. As soon as the young ones were nearly grown, a great many families came from distant places, and encamped in the neighbourhood for several days, for the purpose of living upon them, and collecting for future use the pigeons which they destroyed. Such was the noise made by this vast community of the feathered race, that the horses of the people were frightened at the sound.

THE
STOCK-DOVE, OR WILD PIGEON OF EUROPE.



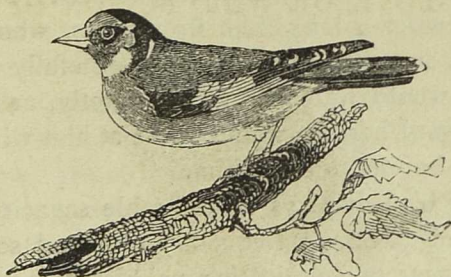
THIS bird appears to have been the origin of all the tribes of the pigeon kind. They generally build their nests either in holes of rocks, or in excavated trees, and are, when taken young, easily brought to a domesticated state. They have been known to breed eight or nine times in the year, and, though only two eggs are laid at a time, their increase is so rapid, that, at the expiration of four years, the produce and descendants of a single pair may amount to the immense number of nearly fifteen thousand.

THE YELLOW BIRD, OR GOLDFINCH.

THIS beautiful little songster makes its appearance in America about the first of April, and soon sets about building its nest upon an apple tree or shrub. This is very neatly and delicately formed, and in it five young ones are hatched.

The song of the Yellow Bird is pleasant, but so feeble that it seems to be at a distance, when perhaps he is perched over your head. He flies in a peculiar manner, rising at each impulse of the wing, and then sinking in a

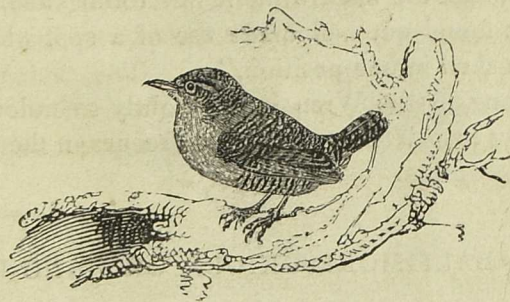
graceful bend towards the ground. As he flies easily along, he utters his cheerful and pleasing note, and appears as



happy as the most favoured of the careless and innocent creatures, who live upon the bounty of Providence.

This bird, in most respects, resembles the goldfinch of England, but they are not exactly the same.

THE HOUSE WREN.



THIS familiar little gossip usually makes his nest near the garden, in some box or crevice in a cherry tree, or he will even put up with an old hat, nailed on the weather boards, with a small hole for an entrance. Mr. Wilson tells us of a mower who hung up his coat near a barn, which by accident remained there two or three days. On putting his arm into the sleeve, he found it full of rubbish, and a pair of Wrens followed him, scolding and threatening him

in the most violent manner for thus breaking up their whole domestic arrangements.

The Wren has a great antipathy to cats. I have often seen a Wren for a long time fly at puss, who sat in the garden, and snap his little beak very spitefully close to her ears. She would watch him very quietly, and as he descended toward her she would strike at him with her swift paw, vainly hoping to catch him.

This little bird displays considerable sagacity. "Having," says Mr. Jesse, "frequently observed some broken snail-shells near two projecting pebbles on a gravel walk, which had a hollow between them, I endeavoured to discover the occasion of their being brought to that situation. At last I saw a Wren fly to the spot with a snail-shell in his mouth, which he placed between the two stones, and hammered at it with his beak till he had broken it, and was then able to feed on its contents. The bird must have discovered that he could not apply his beak with sufficient force to break the shell while it was rolling about, and he therefore found out and made use of a spot which would keep the shell in one position."

The song of the Wren is a sprightly tremulous warble, and being associated with pleasant scenes in the country is always agreeable.

THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE, OR HANG-BIRD.

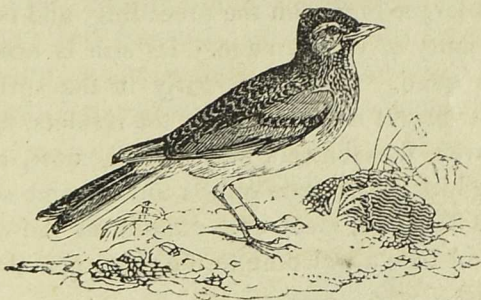
THE upper part of the back, wings, head, and throat of this bird are black; the lower part of the back, rump, and the under parts are a bright orange, deepening into vermilion on the breast. It derives its name from the circumstance that its colours, black and yellow, are those of the livery of Lord Baltimore, the first settler of Maryland.

The extraordinary beauty of this bird entitles it to attention; but the ingenuity it displays in the construction of its nest, renders it still more worthy of notice. The nest is

formed of hemp, flax, hair, tow, and wool; it is shaped like a purse, and hung at the point of some horizontal branch of a tree. The length of one of their nests is usually about seven inches; its diameter about four inches. It is often nearly covered at top, with a small hole for entrance; the materials are woven together like cloth, and the whole is sewed through and through with horse-hair, sometimes two feet in length.

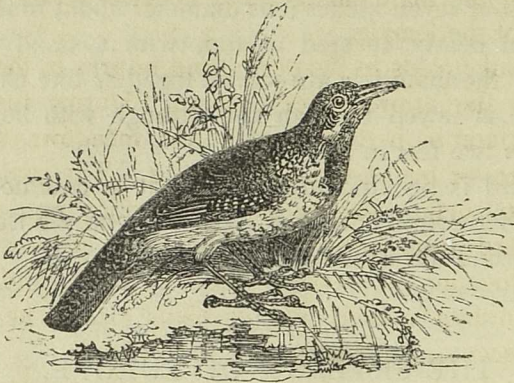
This bird is peculiar to America; it is common in all parts of that country, and is often seen on the trees amid the bustle and din of the busiest cities.

THE SKYLARK OF EUROPE.



THIS bird is celebrated for its song, which is generally heard in the meadows and fields at morning and evening. It is a gentle but pleasing warble, which is uttered as it ascends with a trembling wing, high in the air, and swells into a fuller strain as it sinks again, by degrees, down to its nest, where its mate, and perhaps its young ones, have been listening to the lay. It is somewhat smaller than the blue bird of the United States.

THE MEADOW-LARK OF AMERICA.



THIS is a larger bird than the preceding, and is remarkable for the beauty of its plumage. Its size is nearly equal to that of a quail. It appears early in the spring, and on some clear bright morning, while the rivulets, filled to overflowing with the showers and melted snow, are bursting down the hills, it appears on the top of some solitary tree; and in its shrill but clear note announces the departure of winter, and bids a welcome to the more genial season that approaches.

It builds its nest in the meadows, and frequents them till autumn draws near, when it departs to spend the winter in a milder climate. Its flesh is much esteemed, being in no respect inferior to that of the quail.

THE BOBLINK, OR RICE BUNTING.

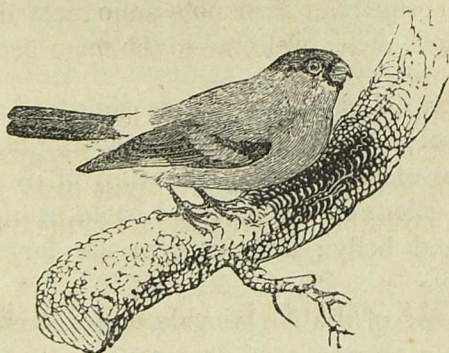
THIS bird is called Boblink in the Northern States of America, and Rice or Reed Bird in the Middle and Southern States. The male is black on the breast and belly; his wings have a white spot upon them, the quills being edged with yellow. There is a bright yellow spot

behind his head. The female has a very different appearance, the breast being yellow, the tail whitish, the back and wings brown, mixed with yellow. In the autumn the colours of the male change, and become nearly the same as those of the female.

This bird breeds in the north, and returns to the Middle States on the approach of autumn. During his stay in New England he is to be seen in the meadows, attending to the cares of his nest and his young. The male bird is a noisy musician, having a very peculiar jingling song, known and sung only by himself. It sounds like the rattling together of several pieces of steel, and, though very discordant in itself, yet, as being always heard amid pleasant scenes, we learn at length to like it.

As the Boblink migrates to the south, he descends in great flocks upon the rice plantations, and is looked upon by the planters as a devouring scourge. In New England they regard him as a noisy light hearted fellow, a little bold and conceited; but, on the whole he is a favourite.

THE BULFINCH.

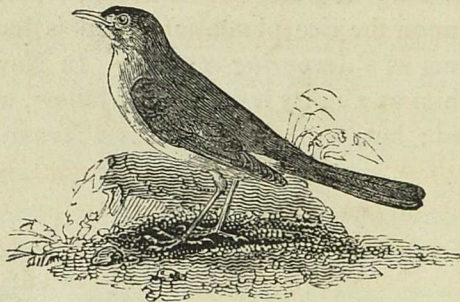


THIS is a very docile bird, and will nearly imitate the sound of a pipe or the whistle of a man with his voice, the mellowness of which is really charming. He is supposed to excel all other small birds, by the softness of his tones

and variety of his notes, except the linnet. In captivity his melody seems to be as great a solace to himself, as a pleasure to his keeper.

By day, and even when the evening has called for the artificial light of candles, he pursues his melodious exertions, and if there be any other birds in the apartment wakes them gently to the pleasing task of singing in concert with him. His plumage is beautiful, though simple and uniform, consisting of three or four shades of colours. The name of this bird originates from his head and neck, like those of the bull, being very large in proportion to the body.

THE NIGHTINGALE.



THIS most delightful songster is not at all remarkable for richness of colour, but owes all its charm to the uncommon sweetness of its tone, and versatility of its notes. It is of a tawny colour on the head and back, nearly white on the breast and belly; and its eyes are large, bright, and staring.

The song of the Nightingale unites strength and sweetness in a most wonderful degree, as its notes may be heard on a calm evening at the distance of half a mile. The most consummate musician might listen with delight to its song, whatever might be his peculiar taste, as it can at one moment thrill the heart with joy, and at another melt it to

sober sadness, by the laughing and sighing modulations which follow each other in rapid succession through the melody, which is seldom interrupted by a pause. As if conscious of its unrivalled powers, it does not join the sometimes discordant concert of the other songsters, but waits on some solitary twig till the blackbird and thrush have uttered their evening call, till the stock and ring doves have lulled each other to rest, and then it displays at full its melodious fancies.

The Nightingales, when caged, sing ten months in the year, but in their wild state only as many weeks, and their song is much more sweet in captivity. It has been supposed to be a bird of passage; but as its wings are not long enough to bear it far through the skies, we cannot easily believe that it can retire, as it has been said, to the distant regions of Asia. It is only known in Europe.

THE WHIPPOORWILL.

THIS bird, together with the night hawk and chuck-wills-widow, seem to bear some resemblance to the bird in Europe called goat-sucker. They are all three peculiar to America. The Whippoorwill is celebrated for its singular melody, which is heard in spring to issue at night from the woods and glens of all parts of our country. It is a rapid warbling repetition of the name given to the bird, and is so distinctly pronounced, as to seem like the voice of a human being.

It is a solitary bird, remaining silent and sequestered during the day, but at night he often approaches a dwelling, and pours forth his song from the door step, or a neighbouring tree. The people of the country have a superstitious fear of killing this bird, which, together with his secret and owl-like habits, render most persons strangers to his appearance.

NIGHT HAWK.

THE Night Hawk and whippoorwill resemble each other in size, colour, and form, and are very commonly supposed to be the same. They are, however, different birds.

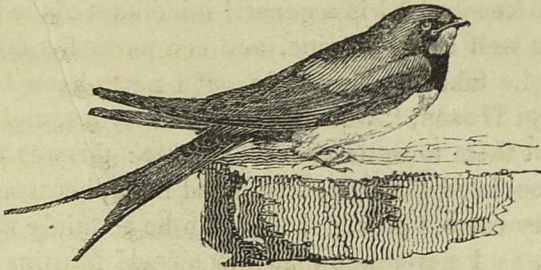
The Night Hawk is well known, as he is often seen at summer evening, with his long wings, flying high in the air, uttering a frequent plaintive cry, and occasionally sweeping downward with a rapid and almost perpendicular descent, and then, by the impulse of his flight, rising high again in the air. He lives on flies and gnats, and descends, as described above, with his mouth open, to catch the insects that may chance to come within his range.

CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW.

THIS bird is about a foot in length, resembling in colour, form, and habits, the whippoorwill. It is a solitary bird, frequenting glens and hollows, and seldom making its appearance during the day. Its song, which is uttered, like that of the whippoorwill, at night, is a constant repetition of the sound, chuck-wills-widow, very distinctly articulated.

It is common in Georgia, and is regarded by the Creek Indians with superstitious awe. It is very seldom seen in the Middle or Eastern States; but I recollect once to have known a whole village in New England in terror and amazement at hearing one of them singing his strange song in the edge of a swamp. The superstitious part of the inhabitants considered it a prediction of some evil that was to befall a widow of the parish; but there was a diversity of opinion as to who the hapless Chuck-wills-widow might be.

THE BARN SWALLOW.



THIS bird has a short bill, long wings, and a forked tail. It has a peculiar twittering voice, and is remarkable for the speed and facility with which it skims along the ground or over water, turning hither and thither with magical quickness, to catch the insects that come in its way.

It builds its nest in barns and ruined and deserted houses, and is protected, in a considerable degree, from the invasion of schoolboy enterprise, by the common superstition, that if you hurt or kill one of them, the cows will give bloody milk.

THE CHIMNEY SWALLOW.

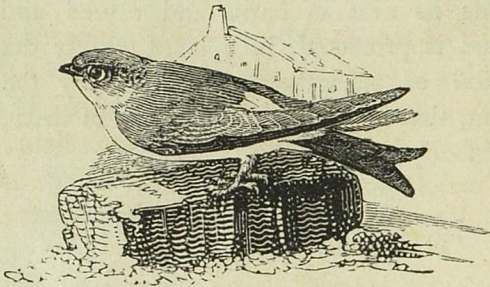
THIS bird has a singular taste, for it chooses to build its nest in sooty chimneys. The nest is constructed of sticks, which the bird attaches strongly together by a kind of glue, which it is able to furnish.

The flight of the Chimney Swallow is singularly swift, and its note a sharp twittering. The young ones occasionally tumble down the chimney, and fall a prey to the cat or the children.

There are several other kinds of Swallows, as the Bank Swallow, White-bellied Swallow, &c. These birds disappear as autumn approaches, and retire to the south, where they spend the winter, and return in the spring.

THE MARTIN.

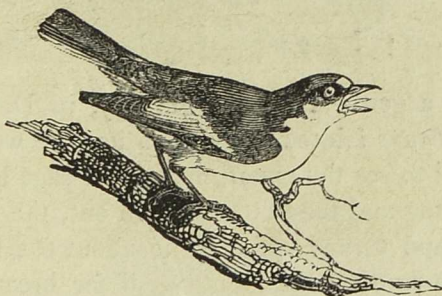
THIS well known bird is a general inhabitant of the United States, as well as of Europe, and is a particular favourite wherever he takes up his abode. "I never knew but one man," says Wilson, "who disliked the Martins, and would not permit them to settle about his house: this was a penurious, close-fisted German, who hated them, because, as he said, 'they eat his peas.' I told him he certainly must be mistaken, as I never knew an instance of Martins eating peas; but he replied with coolness, 'that he had many times seen them himself blaying near the hive, and going *schnip schnap*,' by which I understood that it was his bees that were the sufferers; and the charge could not be denied."



The summer residence of this agreeable bird is universally among the habitations of man, who, having no interest in his destruction, and deriving considerable advantage as well as amusement from his company, is generally his friend and protector. Wherever he comes, he finds some hospitable retreat fitted up for his accommodation, and that of his young. These are usually fully tenanted and occupied regularly every spring, and in such places particular individuals have been noted to return to the same box for several successive years.

THE PIED FLY-CATCHER.

THIS bird derives its name from the facility with which it catches flies. Its general colour is black, the forehead is white, and the bill black. It is nearly five inches in length. It builds its nest in holes of trees. This bird belongs to Europe.



There are several kinds of the Fly-catcher tribe in the American States, of which the king bird, before described, is one of the most remarkable. Another well known bird, called the Pewit Fly-Catcher, is often seen flying out from under bridges, and is observed about caves and streams of water. This bird is generally called Phœbe in New England.

THE CANARY BIRD,

As his name imports, is a native of the Canary Islands; where, in his wild state, he has a dusky gray plumage, and a much stronger voice than when in a cage. In northern countries his feathers undergo a great alteration, and the bird becomes entirely white or yellow. They are very easily tamed, when brought up with attention and kindness; they take their food out of the hand, and often, perching on the shoulder of their mistress, feed out of her mouth.

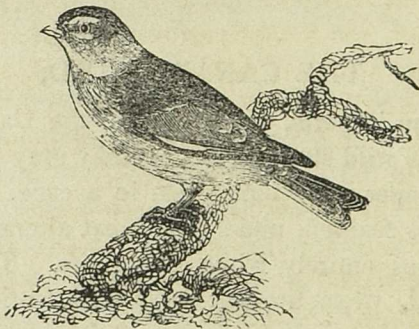
The following curious anecdote of one of these birds is

related by Dr. Darwin: "On observing a Canary Bird at



the house of a gentleman near Sutbury, in Derbyshire, I was told it always fainted away when its cage was cleaned; and I desired to see the experiment. The cage being taken from the ceiling and the bottom drawn out, the bird began to tremble, and turned quite white about the root of the bill; he then opened his mouth as if for breath, and respired quick; stood up straighter on his perch, hung his wing, spread his tail, closed his eyes, and appeared quite stiff for half an hour, till at length, with trembling and deep respirations, he came gradually to himself."

THE LINNET.

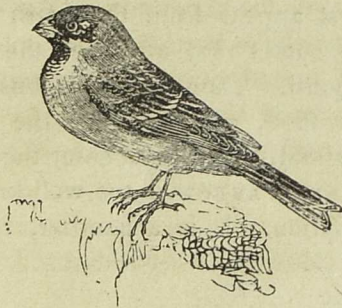


THIS bird is about the size of the goldfinch, and compensates by a melodious voice the want of beauty and variety in his plumage, which is nearly all of one colour. His

musical talents are much valued, and, like those of many other birds, lead him frequently into captivity. He is often kept in cages in England on account of his singing, which is thought very agreeable.

The Blue Linnet, or Indigo Bird, is well known in America. Its favourite haunts are the borders of woods, road-sides, and fields of deep clover. It is very active, and extremely neat and pretty; it is also a vigorous singer. Its usual note, when alarmed, is a sharp *chip*.

THE SPARROW.



THERE are five kinds of Sparrows in North America; the Field Sparrow, the Song Sparrow, the Tree Sparrow, and the Chipping Sparrow, or Chipping Bird, and the Snow Bird. The smallest of these is the first; it is five inches and a quarter long, has no song, and frequently is seen hopping about our doors in winter.

The SONG SPARROW is a sweet singer, and is often heard for an hour together from a bush or small tree; he continues to regale us with his notes during the whole summer and fall, and his notes are often heard in winter. He is the first singing bird of spring, taking precedence of the blue bird himself. This bird is six inches and a half long.

The TREE SPARROW is about the size of the preceding,

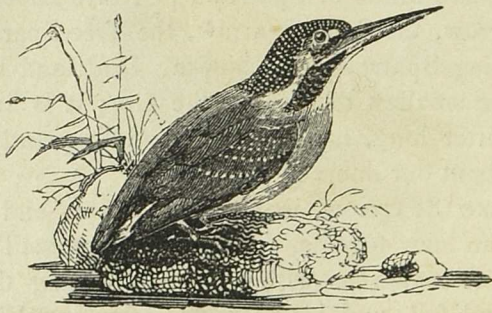
associates in flocks with the snow bird, and frequents sheltered hollows, thickets, and hedge rows. When disturbed he usually takes to trees. He has a low warbling note, scarcely audible at twenty paces distance.

The CHIPPING BIRD may be usually distinguished from the other Sparrows by his black bill, and familiarity in summer. He inhabits the cities and villages in common with man, builds his nest often on a bush beneath a window, and picks up the crumbs at the door. As soon as snow appears he takes his leave, and absents himself till the return of spring.

The SNOW BIRDS are the most numerous of the Sparrow kind. They first appear from the north about October, and when snow comes they approach the barns, and hop about the door-yard. They seem very busy and impatient in getting their food, and often in the morning crowd around the threshold, and almost enter the house.

The EUROPEAN SPARROW is too well known to need an elaborate description. It is a familiar, crafty, and courageous bird.

THE KINGFISHER.



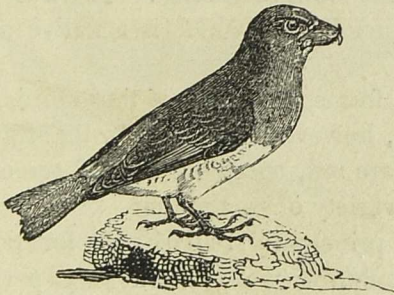
THE Kingfisher delights in murmuring streams and falling waters, not because they soothe his ear, but because they furnish him with his food. He is often seen perched upon an overhanging bough, above the foam of a torrent, or

amidst the roar of a cataract, glancing his keen eye in every direction below for his scaly prey. At length he starts from his perch, and with a sudden circular plunge he seizes the object of his attention, sweeps it from its native element, and swallows it in an instant.

The voice of this bird is loud, harsh, and sudden, like the twirling of a watchman's rattle. He is fond of coursing along the windings of a brook or river, sometimes suspends himself in the air above the water, ready to pounce on the fish below, and is so frequent a visiter of mill-dams, that the sound of his pipe is as well known to the miller, as the rattling of his own hopper.

The length of the Kingfisher is twelve inches and a half; the head, back, and breast, are a bluish slate colour, speckled with white and black; the under parts are white. The neck also is encircled by a belt of white. His shape is not elegant, but his plumage is very handsome.

THE AMERICAN CROSSBILL.



THIS bird inhabits pine forests from September to April. His bill, at first sight, might seem deformed; but the dexterity with which he detaches the seeds of the pine tree upon which he feeds from the cone, is a striking proof of the wisdom and superintending care of the great Creator.

This bird is five inches and three quarters in length; its

colours change considerably at different seasons ; the head and breast are generally of a reddish hue, speckled with black. The wings and tail are a dark brown, the back a greenish yellow intermixed with spots of olive.

PARROTS.



OF Parrots there are not less than a hundred and seventy kinds ; they inhabit warm regions, and abound in Asia, the West Indies, and South America. There is but one species, the Carolina Parrot, which is a native of the United States.

The colours, forms, and sizes of these birds, are various. Their plumage, however, is always brilliant and beautiful. Some of them are red, some green, and some of them are decked with a variety of gaudy hues.

Parrots are principally remarkable for possessing the power of articulating words in a very perfect manner. They can be taught to whistle and sing parts of tunes, and to repeat sentences containing several words. Instances have happened in which they have applied the words and sentences taught them so as to give them the appearance of a high degree of sagacity and intelligence.

Some years since, a Parrot in Boston, that had been taught to whistle in the manner of calling a dog, was

sitting in his cage at the door of a shop. As he was exercising himself in this kind of whistle, a large dog happened to be passing the spot; the animal imagining that he heard the call of his master turned suddenly about and ran toward the cage of the Parrot. At this critical moment, the bird exclaimed vehemently, "Get out, you brute." The astonished dog hastily retreated, leaving the Parrot to enjoy the joke.

THE MACAWS

ARE the largest of the family of Parrots, and are preeminent for the splendour of their plumage. The Red and Blue Macaw, a native of Brazil and the West Indies, is a truly magnificent bird; the Red and Yellow Macaw, though inferior in size, is not so in brilliancy of colouring; the latter is very common in Cayenne and Surinam.

THE HUMMING BIRD.



THERE are seventy kinds of Humming Birds, nearly all of them natives of America, yet only one kind visits the United States, where it is well known, as he frequents the gardens, and sips the honey from the honeysuckle and other plants, like the hive and humble bee. It is several times larger than the latter, but flies so swiftly as almost to elude the sight. Its wings, when it is balancing over the flower, produce a humming sound, which gives name to the bird. It is the smallest of the feathered race, and is

one of the most beautiful in the elegance of its form, and the glossy brilliancy of its delicate plumage. Small as it is, however, it is exceedingly courageous, and has violent passions.

The length of this bird is three inches; it lives partly on honey obtained from flowers, but devours also great quantities of very small insects. The general colour is a rich golden green on the upper parts; the breast and neck are of a dusky white.

Its nest is very small, and is elegantly lined with the down of the mullein. It is covered on the outside with moss, to imitate the colour of the limb on which it is built.

THE BIRD OF PARADISE.



THE head of this bird is small, but adorned with very brilliant colours; the neck is of a fawn tint; the body is small, and covered with long feathers of a brownish hue, tinged with gold. The two middle feathers of the tail are but little more than a filament, except at the point near the root.

It is an inhabitant of some of the Asiatic islands, and in its native clime is often seen sporting amid the luxuriant and spicy woods which characterise those favoured regions. The name of this gaudy inhabitant of the air is supposed to be given it by the sailors, who often observe it on the wing before the land is in view, and, regarding it as a signal that their voyage is nearly over, bestow upon it this complimentary title. Perhaps the uncommon beauty of the bird may have been taken into account, in giving it so flattering a designation.

THE OSTRICH.



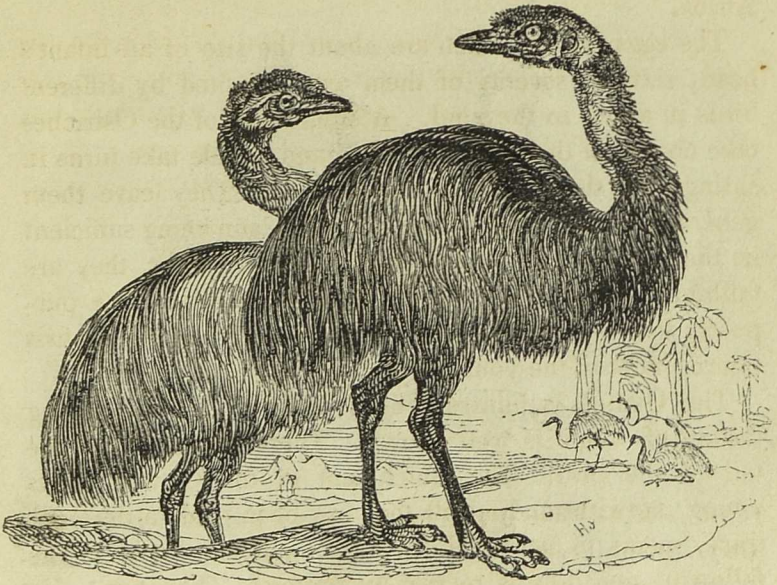
THIS is the largest of birds, it being ten feet in height when it raises its head. Its legs are long; its wings short, and of no use in flying, but assist the animal in running. The neck is extremely long, and the head but little longer than

one of its toes. It is a voracious eater, and will devour leather, glass, iron, bread, and hair, as well as other food. It is sometimes domesticated, but it is usually found in a wild state. Flocks are seen in the plains of Asia and Africa.

The eggs of an Ostrich are about the size of an infant's head, sixty or seventy of them are deposited by different birds in a nest in the sand. A single pair of the Ostriches take charge of them, and the male and female take turns in sitting upon them till they are hatched. They leave them generally during the day, the heat of the sun being sufficient in the climates where they live. But at night, they are faithfully devoted to their charge. Several eggs are purposely left around the nest, which are designed for the first nourishment of the young Ostriches.

The Ostrich is hunted for its feathers, the surpassing beauty of which is well known. These feathers form the tail of the bird. The attachment of the Ostrich to its young, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, seems to be equal to that of other animals. The following anecdote is related by Professor Thunberg. He once rode past the place where a hen Ostrich was sitting in her nest; when the bird sprang up, and pursued him, evidently with a view to prevent his noticing her eggs or young. Every time he turned his horse towards her she retreated ten or twelve paces; but as soon as he rode again she pursued him, till he had got to a considerable distance from the place where he had started her.

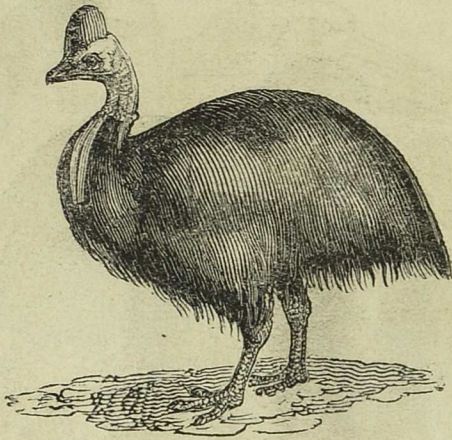
THE EMEU AND RHEA.



THE Emeu has the head and upper part of the neck thinly covered with slender black feathers; the general colour of its plumage is a grayish brown. The height of this bird, when his head is erect, is sometimes seven feet. They are extremely wild, and outstrip a greyhound in running. They are sometimes hunted for food, and their flesh is said to have much the flavour of beef. This bird is a native of New Holland only. Several of them have been carried to England, and they are bred in the royal park at Windsor.

The Rhea very much resembles the Ostrich, but is smaller, and is only found in South America.

THE CASSOWARY.

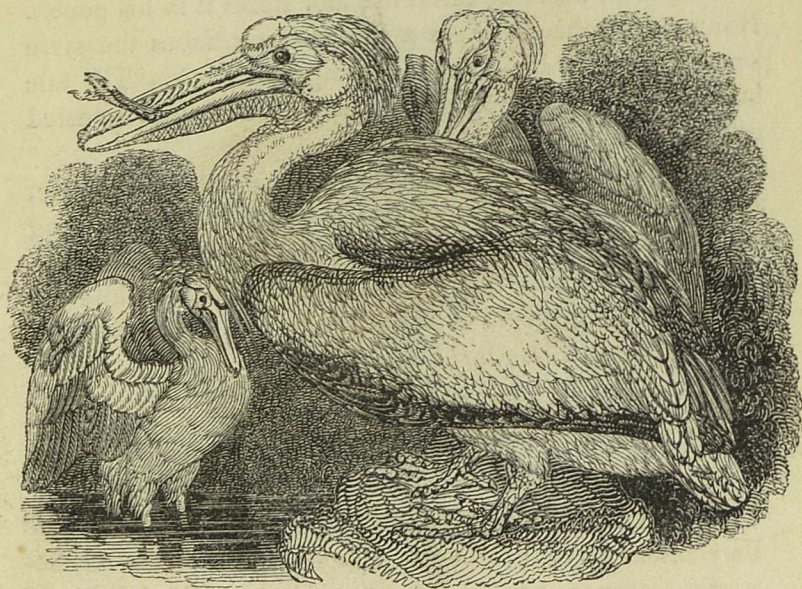


THIS bird, with the preceding, is of the ostrich family ; they resemble each other in many respects. The Cassowary, however, has a bony elevation upon the head, and wattles upon the neck, which the emeu has not. In several other particulars they are different. They agree in having three toes, pointing forward, while the ostrich has only two.

There was a Cassowary in Paris, which devoured four pounds of bread, six apples, and a bunch of carrots, and drank about two quarts of water every day ! It was a powerful bird, and seemed to dislike ragged people, and those dressed in red clothes. It kicked forward with its feet so vigorously as to render it dangerous to be in its way.

The Cassowary is found in the southern parts of Asia, and the adjacent islands.

THE PELICAN.



THIS bird in size is nearly equal to the swan; the colour of the body is white, inclining to a pink hue; the beak is straight and long, with a sharp hook at the end; the skin of the lower part of the beak or mandible is so capable of distension, that it may contain a great weight of fish, and some say fifteen quarts of water. This pouch Providence has allowed to the bird that he may bring to his nest sufficient food for several days, and save himself the trouble of travelling through the air, and watching and diving so often for his food. It is a very indolent, inactive, and inelegant bird, often sitting whole days and nights on rocks or branches of trees motionless and in a melancholy posture, till the resistless stimulus of hunger spurs him away; when thus incited to exertion, he flies from the spot, and,

raising himself thirty or forty feet above the surface of the sea, turns his head with one eye downward, and continues to fly in that attitude till he sees a fish sufficiently near the surface. He then darts down with astonishing swiftness, seizes it with unerring certainty, and stores it in his pouch. Having done this, he rises again, and continues the same process till he has procured a competent stock. The tale of its feeding its young with its own blood is now rejected as a vulgar error.

In South America, Pelicans are often rendered domestic, and are so trained that at command they go in the morning and return before night with their pouches distended with prey, part of which they are made to disgorge, while the rest is left to them for their trouble. The bird is said to live sometimes a hundred years.



THE TOUCAN.



THIS bird is a native of South America, very conspicuous for the bigness and shape of his bill. He is about the size of the magpie; but his beak is one-third as big as the rest of the body; the head is large and strong, and the neck short, in order the more easily to support the weight of such a beak.

The monkeys are his sworn enemies; they often attack his nest, but Providence has allotted him a head and a beak of such a size, as to fill up the whole entrance of his habitation; and when the plunderer approaches, the bird gives him such a rough welcome, that the monkey is glad to run away. This monstrous bill serves another useful purpose; for, when seen peeping out of the nest, it makes other animals suppose that a much larger and more powerful bird inhabits the well guarded mansion.

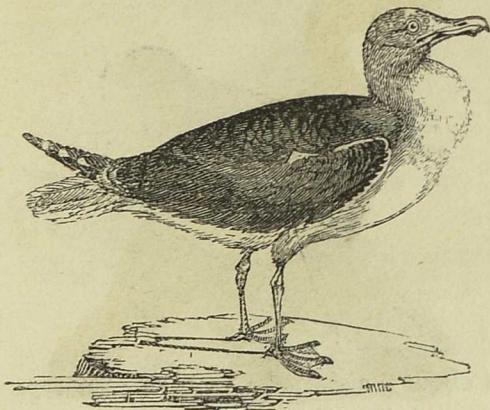
THE CORMORANT.



THIS is a large water bird of the pelican genus, endued with a very voracious appetite, and a very rapacious disposition. He lives upon all sorts of fish; the fresh water, and the briny waves of the sea, both pay a large contribution to his craving stomach. The bill is about five inches in length, and of a dusky colour; the predominant tints of the body are black and dark green. Their smell, when alive, is excessively rank and disagreeable; and their flesh is so disgusting that even the Greenlanders, among whom they are very common, will scarcely eat them.

They were formerly tamed in England for the purpose of catching fish, as the falcons and hawks were for chasing the fleet inhabitants of the air. The custom is still in full practice in China. This bird, although of the aquatic kind, is often seen, like the pelican, perched upon trees.

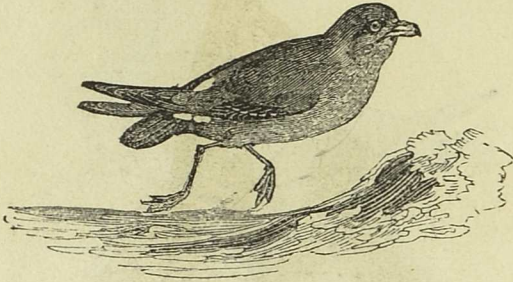
GULLS.



THERE are several kinds of Gulls, of which the largest is the Black and White Gull. Its wings measure sometimes four or five feet from tip to tip, yet its weight does not exceed four pounds.

Gulls are abundant along the sea-shore, and are often observed many hundred miles out at sea, following a vessel in her track, sometimes sitting down upon the waves in her wake, then again sustaining their flight for hours together with unwearied wing.

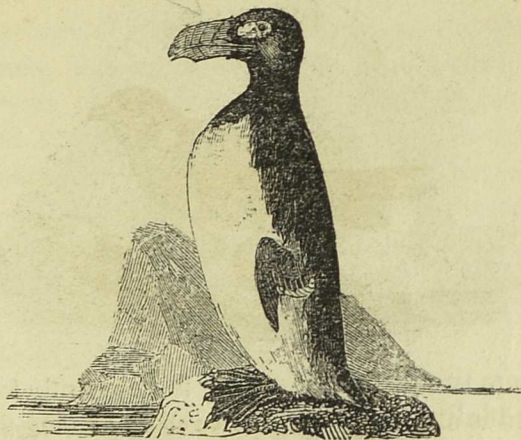
Along the rocky borders of the ocean these birds assemble in vast numbers, and in some unfrequented islands they literally cover the surface with their countless flocks. Their cries are exceedingly harsh and discordant, and mingling with the hoarse roar of the billows, seem to add to the dreariness which belongs to the "waste of waters." The nests of these birds are commonly built among the rocks, and are made of long grass and sea-weed. The Gull lays from one to three eggs, and defends its young with great intrepidity.

THE STORMY PETREL, OR MOTHER CARY'S
CHICKEN.

THIS bird is about the size of a swallow ; its legs are long and slender, and its colour is black. It is seen in all parts of the ocean busily engaged in searching for food. It braves the utmost fury of the storm, skimming along the waves, sometimes above their tops, and sometimes screening itself from the blast by sinking down into the billows between them. It does not sit upon the water, but often places its feet upon it, and sustains itself by the aid of its expanded wings, while it picks up some piece of food. It is said to be an excellent diver. Flocks of these birds often follow vessels for whole days, and eat such things as are thrown overboard. The sailors have many superstitions respecting them, and believe their appearance to be a sure presage that the weather will be stormy in the course of a few hours.

The Norfolk Island Petrel burrows in the sand like a rabbit.

THE GREAT AUK.



THIS bird is about the size of the goose; the upper part of its plumage is black, the breast white. Its wings are very short, and it is incapable of flying. Its legs are placed very far back, and it is consequently a bad walker; but it swims and dives well. It is never seen far from shore, and is therefore a sure indication to the seamen who observe it that land is near.

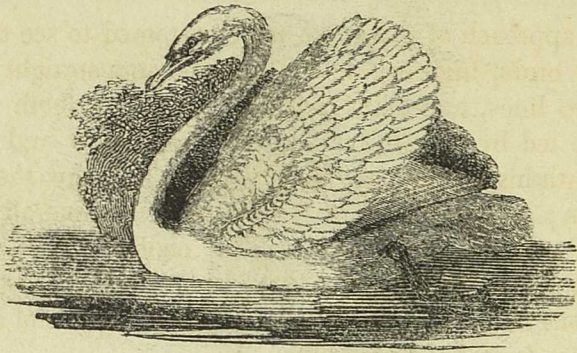
The female lays but one egg, which she deposits and hatches upon a ledge close to the edge of the water: this egg is about six inches in length, white and streaked with purple lines.

THE PENGUIN.

THE Penguin is smaller than the preceding, but resembles it in form and habits. It walks erect, when on the land, like the auk, and makes a very uncouth figure.

The most remarkable species is the Crested Penguin, which is sometimes called Jumping Jack, from its leaping out of the water to the height of three or four feet.

THE SWAN.



THERE are two distinct species of this elegantly formed and majestic bird, the wild and tame; both bearing the general characters of the class which they may be referred to, yet not exactly tallying with each other. The Swan is the largest of all web-footed water-fowl, some of them weighing about twenty pounds; the whole of the body is covered with a beautiful lily-white plumage; under the feathers is a thick but soft down, which is of very great use, and often employed as an ornament. The elegance of form which this bird displays when, with his arched neck and half-displayed wings, he sails along the crystal surface of a tranquil stream, which reflects as he passes the snowy beauty of his dress, is worthy of admiration.

In some parts of the world there are vast multitudes of Wild Swans. In the fountains of the public gardens of France Tame Swans are frequently seen sailing on the water. Young Swans are called Cygnets. In New Holland, a species of Black Swan, larger than the white kind, has been found. When the Swan is dying, it is said to utter a low, sweet, mournful sound, to which the poets often allude. It is said these birds live to the age of one hundred and fifty years.

THE WILD GOOSE.

ON the approach of spring we are accustomed to see flocks of these birds, high in the air, arranged in a straight line, or in two lines, approximating to a point. In both cases they are led by an old gander, who every now and then pipes forth his well known *honk*, as if to ask how they all come on; and the *honk* of "all's well" is generally returned by some of the party. They continue their flight day and night, generally in a straight line. I suppose that it is to one of these birds that Mr. Bryant's beautiful lines, to a water-fowl, are addressed.

Whither, 'midst falling dew,
While glow the heavens with the last steps of day,
Far, through their rosy depths, dost thou pursue
Thy solitary way?

Vainly the fowler's eye
Might mark thy distant flight to do thee wrong,
As, darkly painted on the crimson sky,
Thy figure floats along.

Seek'st thou the plashy brink
Of weedy lake, or marge of river wide,
Or where the rocking billows rise and sink
On the chafed ocean side?

There is a Power whose care
Teaches thy way along that pathless coast,—
The desert and illimitable air,—
Lone wandering, but not lost.

All day thy wings have fann'd
At that far height the cold thin atmosphere;
Yet stoop not, weary, to the welcome land,
Though the dark night is near.

And soon that toil shall end,
Soon shalt thou find a summer home, and rest,
And scream among thy fellows; reeds shall bend
Soon o'er thy sheltered nest.

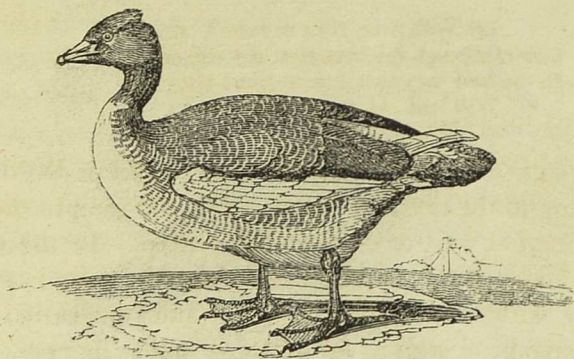
Thou'rt gone, the abyss of heaven
Hath swallow'd up thy form; yet, on my heart
Deeply hath sunk the lesson thou hast given,
And shall not soon depart.

He, who from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone,
Will lead my steps aright.

It is generally supposed that these flocks of Wild Geese are going to the northern lakes. But the people there are as ignorant as we are of their destination. In the regions of the lakes, they are still seen pursuing their northward journey with undeviating instinct and unwearied wing. They have been seen as far north as eighty degrees, and it is probable that beyond the arctic circle, and perhaps under the very pole, amid the desolation of those regions, shut out from the prying eye of man by everlasting barriers of ice, they find sufficient food, and a secure and favourite retreat.

On their return, vast numbers of these Geese are killed by the sportsmen, in the northern, western, and southern waters. The wounded ones are often tamed, and readily pair with the common gray goose.

THE TAME GOOSE.



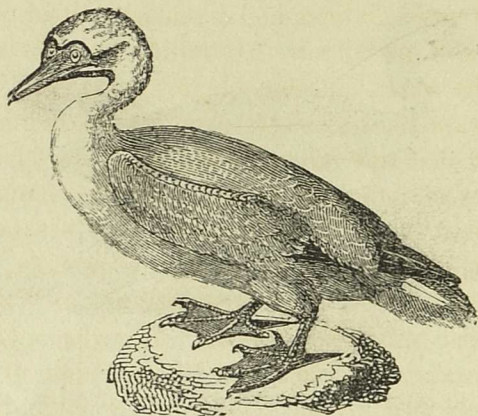
THIS stupid animal is the wild goose reduced to a domestic state. It furnishes us with feathers for our beds, and, dull as it is, supplies the poet and other scribblers with their quills.

The feathers of the Tame Goose are plucked three or four times a year; their quills once a year. It is a painful process for the Geese to have their covering so violently pulled off, but the old ones submit to it with great resignation. The young ones, seeming to consider it a barbarous piece of cruelty, make a great outcry.

In the low grounds of Lincolnshire, in England, vast numbers of Geese are raised for their flesh and feathers. They are driven in large quantities to London; nine thousand have been seen in one drove.

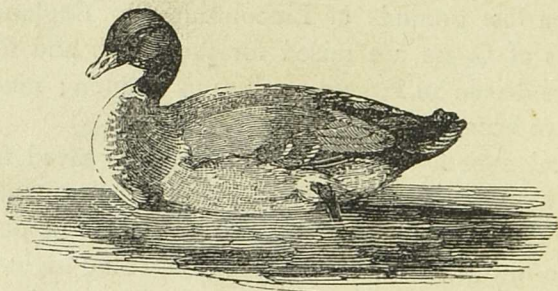
Several ages ago the city of Rome was saved from an enemy by some Geese. While all the inhabitants were asleep, their enemies had nearly succeeded in obtaining entrance into the city, when the Geese, being frightened by the soldiers, set up a loud cackling. This awakened the Romans in time to force their enemies to retire.

THE GANNET.



THIS bird is about the size of a tame goose; it frequents the coast of Scotland, and other northern regions. It lives on fish, and usually follows the shoals of herrings in their migration. The fishermen look upon the Gannet as a sort of pilot, to instruct them where the shoals of fish may be found.

THE DUCK.



OF Ducks there are so many varieties that I cannot even give the names of all of them here. Whoever has been along the sea-shore has doubtless seen multitudes of them,

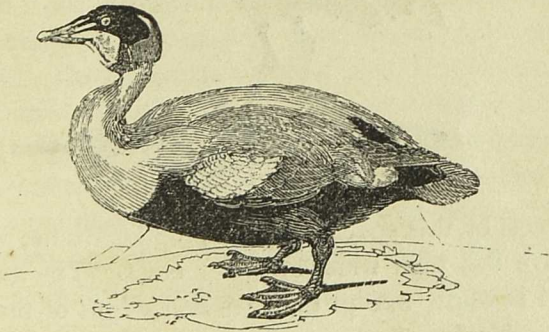
either swimming about in the water, or flying over the surface.

The most beautiful of this tribe of birds is the Wood Duck ; it is very common, and is remarkable for the variety and richness of its colours. It builds its nests in hollow trees over the water, and thus obtains its name.

The Canvass Back Duck is peculiar to America, and is more valued than any other for the exquisite flavour of its flesh. It is seldom seen north of Pennsylvania, and is most abundant in the neighbourhood of Chesapeake Bay. It is two feet in length, and weighs three pounds.

The Mallard is one of the most common of Wild Ducks, and is almost universally known. It is the original stock of our Domestic Duck, reclaimed from a state of nature at a period now beyond the records or the memory of man. It frequents the fresh water lakes, but is seldom seen in salt water.

THE EIDER DUCK.

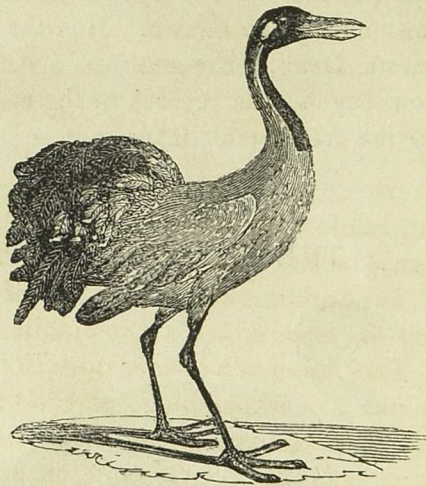


THE Eider Duck has long been celebrated for the excellence and abundance of its down. It visits the northern regions both in Europe and America during summer, and seeks solitary rocky shores and islands for its place of breeding. It is said that three pounds of Eider down may be compressed into a space not much bigger than a man's

fist, yet it will afterwards expand so as to fill a quilt five feet square.

The natives where this bird breeds carry on a regular system of plundering the nests for the down. These nests are lined with the down, which the female tears from her breast. The people steal the nest when the eggs are laid, and the disappointed bird again strips her breast to furnish another. This is also taken, and then it is said that the male, in this extremity, supplies a third quantity.

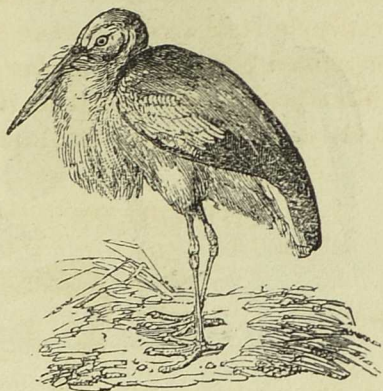
THE CRANE.



THE largest of this species is the Hooping Crane, which is about five feet high when standing erect. The colour of this bird is white, except the legs and edges of the wings, which are black.

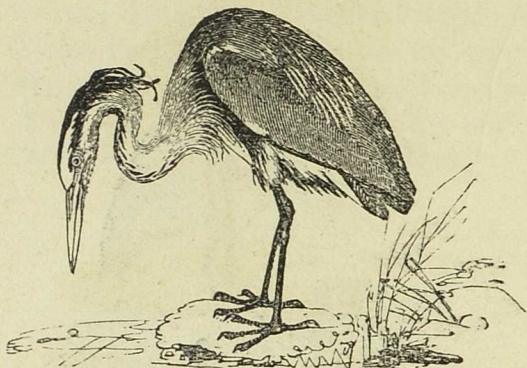
These birds migrate from the south in spring, and spend the summer in northern regions. Their flight is generally so high, that they are rarely observed. They frequent salt marshes, and morasses, and, being exceedingly vigilant, can seldom be approached. They sometimes utter a shrill cry, which can be heard two miles.

THE STORK.



THE White Stork slightly resembles the heron in figure, but is much smaller. Its character and habits are also different. In Europe and Asia it is half domesticated, living about the houses, and often building its nest upon the roofs. They are much esteemed in Holland, and it is deemed an omen of favourable import to the family if one of them builds his nest upon a house. I have heard of one which became familiar with the children of a family, and as they were playing hide and seek, when touched, it would run its turn, and so well distinguished the child whose turn it was to run, as to be perfectly on its guard.

THE HERON.

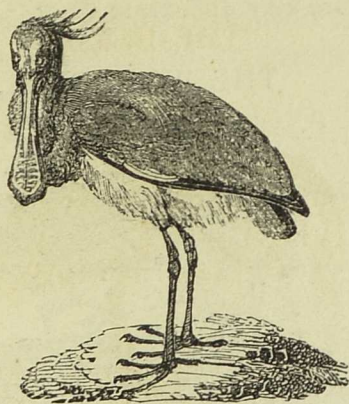


AMONG this race of birds the Great Heron is the most worthy of notice. Its predominant colour is slate, but it is considerably and beautifully variegated. It breeds in the gloomy solitudes of the cedar swamps, in the Middle States of America, where silence like that of the house of death presides over the scene, broken only by the hollow screams of the Heron. On the tops of the cedars these birds construct their nests, and hatch their young. They lay four large eggs, of a pale green colour. They are said to live more than sixty years.

The principal food of the Heron is fish: he may often be seen standing on the sea-shore, or on the edge of a pond or lake, fixed and motionless, for hours together, watching for his food.

The Heron was formerly hunted by the kings of England, who made use of the falcon in pursuing it. It has been tamed, but is not remarkable for any peculiar qualities. It is, however, very voracious, having been known to eat fifty small fish in a day.

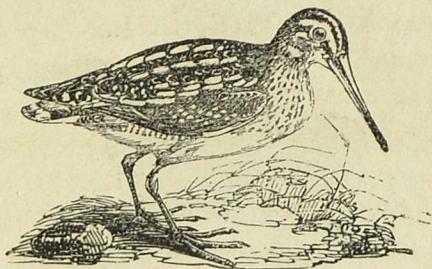
THE SPOONBILL.



THE Roseate Spoonbill inhabits the shores of America, from Brazil to Georgia. Its length is two feet six inches, and its colour a beautiful rose tint.

The White Spoonbill inhabits the eastern continent, and is much prized in some parts of the world for the destruction he makes of lizards and reptiles. These birds live principally on fish, frogs, &c. Their name is derived from the resemblance of the bill to a spoon.

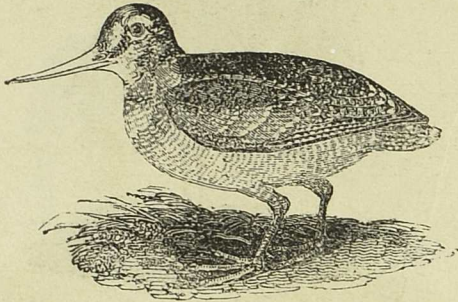
THE SNIPE.



THE Snipe visits America in summer, and takes up its abode in marshes and low grounds, where it lives chiefly upon worms and the larvæ of insects. Its flesh is regarded

as one of the greatest dainties, and is much sought for by the sportsman. It flies very swiftly in a zigzag manner, and is therefore very difficult to shoot.

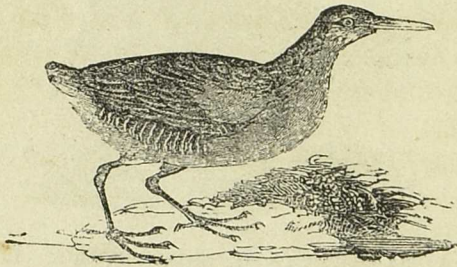
THE WOODCOCK.



THIS bird is about as large as a quail, and has a bill three inches long. During the day it sleeps in the woods and thickets, and at the approach of evening seeks the springs and open marshy places to feed in. It is properly a nocturnal bird, and usually gains its subsistence in the night. The flesh of the Woodcock is reckoned very delicious, and no game is more prized by sportsmen.

The Woodcock of America resembles the Woodcock of Europe in figure and manners, but it is considerably less in size.

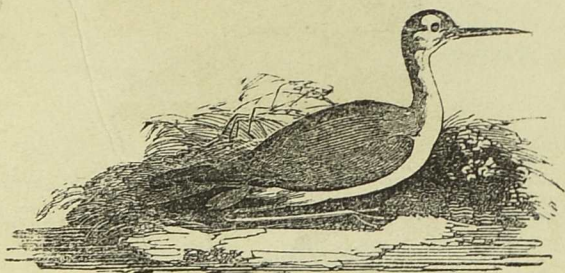
THE RAIL.



IN the middle and southern states of America this bird is abundant on the rocky shores and marshes of the rivers,

and affords a favourite amusement to the sportsmen. They migrate, like other birds, but are so secret in their movements, that they appear and disappear without even being seen in passing from one country to another. They live on the seeds of reeds.

THE PLOVER.

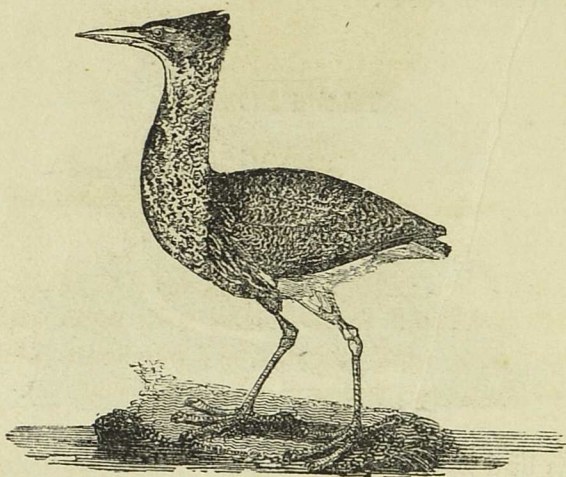


OF this bird there are several kinds; they are common in the autumn, in the open ground, and along the coasts. The Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, and Wilson's Plover, are the most frequently met with in the middle and eastern states of America; and the Long-legged Plover in most parts of Europe.

THE KILDEER, OR KILDEER PLOVER.

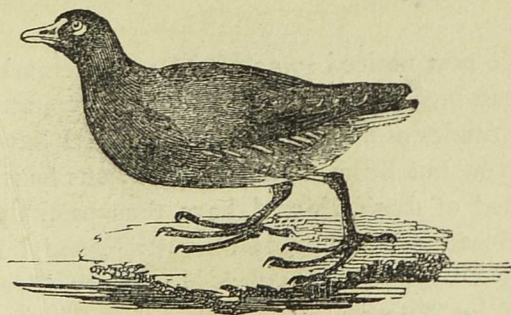
THIS is a noisy and well known inhabitant of the American shores and bare open plains. Nothing can exceed the anxiety of this bird while breeding. Its cry of *kildeer, kildeer*, as it winnows the air over your head, courses around you, runs swiftly along before, or counterfeits lameness, is loud and incessant. It is a handsome bird, ten inches in length, and twenty in extent.

THE BITTERN.



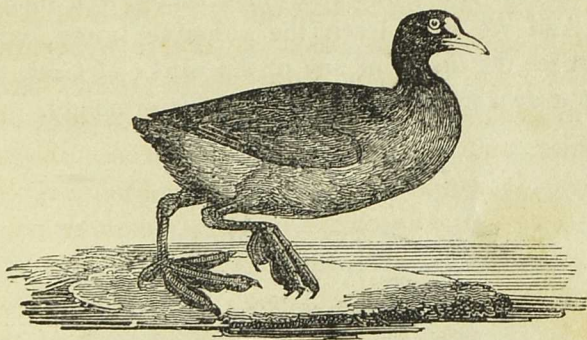
THE Bittern, of which there are several kinds, resembles the heron species. The American Bittern is twenty-seven inches in length. When disturbed, he rises with a heavy and awkward flight, uttering the cry, *kwa, kwa*. It is a night bird, and its sight is most acute during the evening twilight. It is much smaller than the European Bittern, and its note is totally unlike the loud booming cry of the latter.

THE WATER-HEN.



THESE birds are found in Europe, and build their nests upon low trees and shrubs; they both swim and wade, and the young ones imitate their parents in both these practices the moment they are out of the shell.

THE COOT.

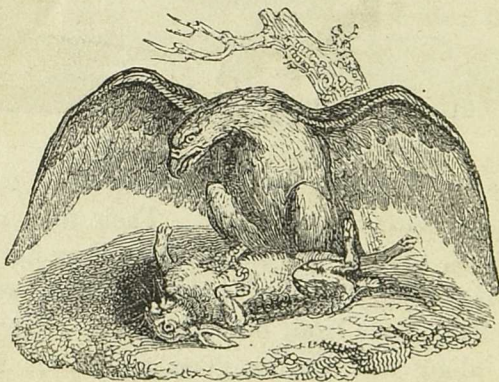


THE general colour of this bird is deep blue, tinged with green, some parts being black. Their food consists of plants, seeds, insects, and small fish. They have an aversion to take wing, but they swim and dive remarkably well. When on the land, the Coot walks awkwardly, but it skulks along through the grass and reeds with great

speed. When closely pursued in the water, it rises with apparent reluctance, fluttering along the surface like a wounded duck.

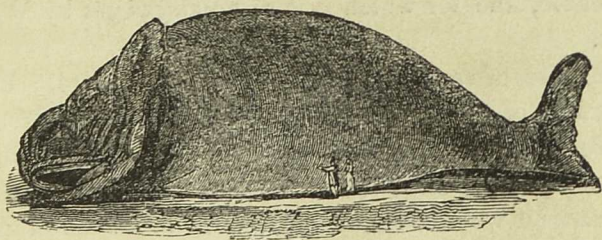
I have now noticed some of the most remarkable of the American birds, as well as those of other countries. There are multitudes of others not named; and I have been able to tell you but little of the many curious facts that could be related of those which I have thus partially described. The subject is exceedingly interesting, and I recommend to you the beautiful and splendid work on American Ornithology, by Wilson, from which I have derived much of the information here given.

As we proceed in our investigation of the works of Nature, we shall meet with constant proofs of the all-pervading knowledge and all-pervading care of Providence. We shall see that every thing is adapted to the ends of its existence; that what we had often deemed worthless, or even pernicious, has yet its useful place in the varied plan of the Great and Good and Wise Being who made them all. And we shall learn the valuable lesson, when we cannot see the utility of any of the works of God, to refer it to our own ignorance, and not to his oversight.



OF FISHES.

THE WHALE.



WHEN fully grown, the length of the Whale may be stated as varying from fifty to sixty-five, and rarely, if ever, reaching seventy feet, and its greatest circumference from thirty to forty feet. It is thickest a little behind the fins. When the mouth is open, it presents a cavity as large as a room, and capable of containing a merchant ship's jolly-boat full of men. Its tongue is as large as a stout feather-bed. The tail is a formidable instrument of motion and defence: it is only five or six feet long, but its motions are rapid, and its strength immense. The eyes are situated in the sides of the head; they are very small, being little larger than those of an ox. The Whale has no external ear, but there is a small orifice under the skin for the admission of sound.

On the most elevated part of the head are two blow holes six or eight inches in length. The mouth, instead of teeth, has two rows of whalebone, each of which contains more than three hundred laminæ, the longest of which are about ten or eleven feet. A large Whale sometimes contains a ton and a half of whalebone. The colour of the

old Whale is gray and white, that of the young ones a sort of bluish black.

Immediately beneath the skin lies the blubber, or fat; its thickness round the body is eight or ten or twenty inches, varying in different parts: the lips are composed almost entirely of blubber. A large Whale yields about twenty tons of oil, which is expressed from the blubber. It is for this and the whalebone that this animal is deemed so valuable, and for which it is so much sought by Whale-fishers.

The sense of seeing in the Whale is very acute. Under the surface of the water they discover one another at an amazing distance. They have no voice, but in breathing or blowing they make a loud noise. They blow loudest and strongest when "running." When in a state of alarm, they respire or blow four or five times a minute, when they eject a vapour to the height of some yards.

The usual rate at which Whales swim seldom exceeds four miles an hour, but for a few minutes at a time they are capable of darting through the water with amazing velocity, and of ascending with such rapidity as to leap above the surface. This feat they perform as an amusement, apparently to the high admiration of distant spectators. Sometimes they throw themselves in a perpendicular posture, with the head downwards, and rearing their tails on high, beat the water with awful violence. Sometimes they shake their tails in the air, which, cracking like a whip, resound to the distance of two or three miles.

The flesh of the Whale, though it would be rejected by the dainty palates of refined nations, is eaten with much relish by the Esquimaux, and the inhabitants along the coasts of Hudson's Bay and Davis's Straits, who esteem it a staple article of subsistence. There is no doubt it was eaten by the Dutch, French, Spanish, and probably by the English, a few centuries ago.

The Whale produces one, and sometimes two cubs at a

time, and gives them suck as a cow does her calf. The anxiety and care of a female Whale in endeavouring to protect and save her young, when in danger from the fishermen, is truly affecting. She loses all regard for her own safety, threatens the pursuers with destruction, and will scarce ever desert her offspring while life remains.

The Whale fisheries are extensive in the North Pacific Ocean, and in all the Northern seas of the Atlantic. The merchants of Nantucket, and other places in America, as well as those in Europe, are largely concerned in this business. Some of the ships which go to the Pacific on these expeditions are absent about three years. They bring back sometimes three hundred barrels of oil apiece. A cargo of oil often produces from fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars.

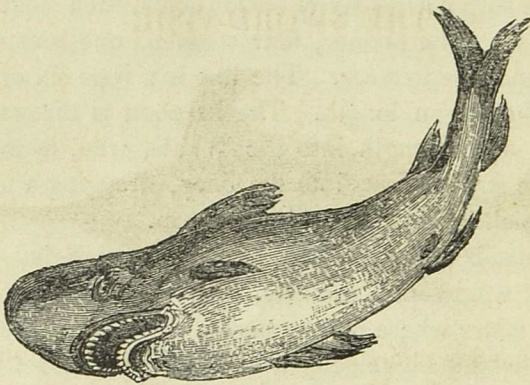
A whale ship carries six or seven boats, each boat being manned with a harpooner, four seamen, one manager of the line, and one to steer. The line is a rope six or seven hundred fathom in length. The harpoon is thrown with great skill and strength into the Whale, who, as soon as he feels the stroke, darts into the deep, dragging after him the line which is fastened to the harpoon.

The manager of the line sees that it is not tangled, for in that case it would snap asunder, or upset the boat. He throws on water where it runs across the side of the boat, for it goes with such velocity it would otherwise set fire to the place. The Whale is soon obliged to rise to breathe; he is then again struck by the harpoon, till, after repeated attacks, he becomes faint from the loss of blood, and at length dies. The blubber is then cut off, and the whalebone is taken away, and the carcass is left to be devoured by the inhabitants of the deep, or the white bears that prowl along those desolate shores.

THE SPERMACETI WHALE.

THE oil produced from the Spermaceti Whale is not in such large quantity as that produced from some of the other species; but in quality it is far preferable, since it yields a bright flame, without, at the same time, exhaling any nauseous smell. The substance known by the name of ambergris is produced from the body of this animal. It is generally found in the stomach, but sometimes in the intestines, and, in a commercial point of view, is a highly valuable production. It is supposed to be produced by disease.

THE SHARK.

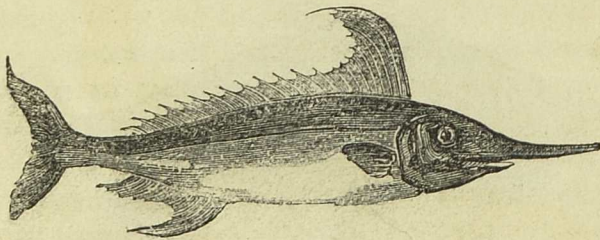


THE Shark lives entirely upon fish or flesh; and it is reported, that when he has once tasted of the flesh of a human being, nothing can make him desist from his pursuit after the vessels which he suspects to contain the delicate food he seeks after. The White Shark is sometimes found weighing near four thousand pounds. The throat is often large enough to swallow a man; and a human body has sometimes been found entire in the stomach of this tremendous animal.

He is furnished with six rows of sharp triangular teeth, amounting in the whole to one hundred and forty-four, serrated on their edges, and capable of being erected or depressed at pleasure, owing to a curious muscular mechanism in the palate and jaws. The whole body and fins are of a light ash-colour; the skin is rough, and is employed to smooth cabinet work, or to cover small boxes or cases.

The late Sir Brook Watson was, some years ago, swimming at a little distance from a ship, when he saw a Shark making towards him. Struck with terror at its approach, he cried out for assistance. A rope was instantly thrown; and even while the men were in the act of drawing him up the ship's side, the monster darted after him, and at a single snap tore off his leg.

THE SWORD-FISH.



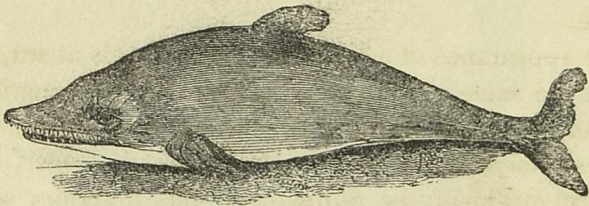
THIS fish has his name from his long snout resembling the blade of a sword. He sometimes weighs above one hundred pounds, and is fifteen feet in length. The body is of a conical form, black on the back, white under the belly, a large mouth, and no teeth; the tail is remarkably forked.

The Sword-fish and the whale are said never to meet without coming to battle; and the former has the reputation of being always the aggressor. Sometimes two Sword-fishes join against one whale; in which case the combat is by no means equal. The whale uses his tail in his defence; he dives down into the water head foremost, and makes

such a blow with his tail, that, if it take effect, it finishes the Sword-fish at a stroke ; but the other, which in general is sufficiently adroit to avoid it, immediately falls upon the whale, and buries his weapon in his sides.

Sometimes these battles terminate fatally to the whale. Captain Churchill, who commands a sloop that plies between Hartford and Boston, witnessed one of these engagements in the fall of 1829. He represents the spectacle as very striking. The whale was assaulted by two fish called thrashers, which beat him on the sides most furiously, while the Sword-fish was supposed to be plunging his weapon into his belly. The blood of the whale dyed the waters for many acres in extent, and there is reason to believe that he expired in consequence of his wounds.

THE DOLPHIN.



THIS is a large fish, so like the porpoise that he has been often confounded with it. It is, however, much larger, sometimes measuring from twenty to twenty-five feet in length. The body is roundish, growing gradually less towards the tail ; the nose is long and pointed, the skin smooth, the back black or dusky blue, becoming white towards the belly. He is entirely destitute of gills, or any similar aperture, but respire and also spouts water through a pipe of semicircular form placed on the upper part of the head. In dying, when taken out of the water, the body of the Dolphin assumes a variety of vivid and changeful hues.

There have been many fabulous tales invented of this fish, but I shall only tell you what is true. Shoals of Dolphins may be seen in the bays along the American coast. Occasionally a troop of them may be seen scudding along, rising in quick succession, as if anxious each to get in advance of the other; while, again, a single individual may be observed successively rising and falling in the same way, as if engaged in the act of catching its prey.

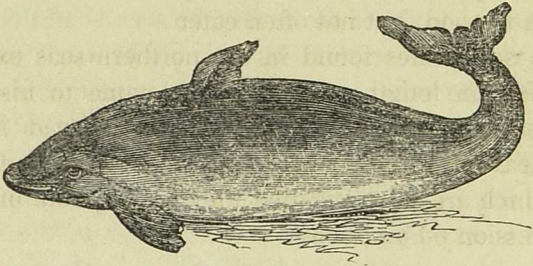
In this way shoals of Dolphins may be seen almost every day, and at any hour, feeding or sporting in the bay and rivers near the city of New York, where the people sometimes enjoy an opportunity of observing from the wharf a large shoal of them moving down the Hudson river with the tide. Some plunging along as if in haste, others apparently at play, and others very slowly rising to the surface for breath, and as gradually disappearing, allowing their dorsal fin to remain for a considerable time above the surface.

The appearance of a shoal of these animals at sea, moving in the same direction, is considered by experienced mariners as an indication of an approaching storm, which very certainly follows their appearance. Falconer, in his beautiful poem of the Shipwreck, thus describes such a circumstance:—

“ Now to the north from burning Afric’s shore,
A troop of porpoises their course explore;
In curling wreaths they gambol on the tide,
Now bound aloft, now down the billow glide;
Their tracks awhile the hoary waves retain
That burn in sparkling trails along the main—
These fleetest coursers of the finny race,
When threatening clouds the’ ethereal vault deface,
Their route to leeward still sagacious form,
To shun the fury of the approaching storm.”

There is another fish called dolphin by the sailors, which often follows vessels, and devours substances that are thrown overboard. This is, however, a much smaller fish, and has little resemblance to the true Dolphin.

THE PORPOISE.



THIS fish resembles the dolphin, and is of the same genus. Its length, from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail, is from five to eight feet; and the width about two feet and a half. The figure of the whole body is conical; the colour of the back is deep blue, inclining to shining black; the sides are gray, and the belly white. When the flesh is cut up, it looks very much like pork; but, although it was once considered a sumptuous article of food, and is said to have been occasionally introduced at the tables of the old English nobility, it certainly has a disagreeable flavour.

Their motion in the water is a kind of circular leap; they dive deep, but soon again rise up in order to breathe. They are seen nearly in all seas, where they sport with great activity, chiefly on the approach of a squall.

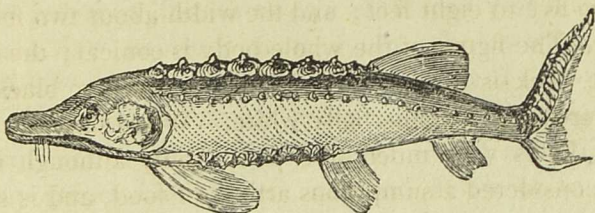
THE SEA WOLF.

THIS is often caught at Heligoland, an island not far from the mouth of the Elbe; it is about three feet in length, and has a larger and flatter head than the shark. The back, sides, and fins are of a bluish colour; the belly is nearly white; the whole skin is smooth and slippery, without any appearance of scales. He is of a very voracious nature, and has a double row of sharp and round teeth, both in the upper and lower jaw. However, his appetite

does not lead him to destroy fishes similar in shape to himself, as he is supposed to feed entirely on animals and fish who have shells, which he easily breaks with his teeth. His flesh is good, but not often eaten.

He is sometimes found in the northern seas exceeding twelve feet in length, and owes his name to his natural fierceness and voracity. The fishermen dread his bite, and endeavour as speedily as possible to strike out his fore teeth, which are so strong that they are capable of leaving an impression on an anchor.

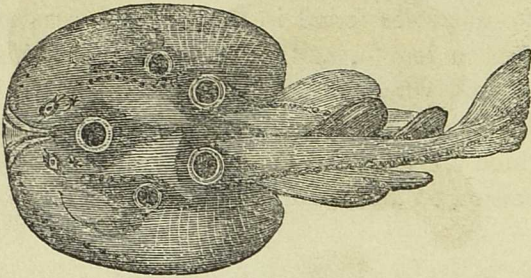
THE STURGEON.



THIS fish sometimes grows to the length of eighteen feet, and has been found to weigh five hundred pounds. It has a long, slender, pointed nose, small eyes, and a small mouth destitute of teeth.

The Sturgeon annually ascends our rivers in the summer; when caught, as it sometimes is, in the nets, it scarcely makes any resistance, but is drawn out of the water apparently lifeless. It is found in most of the rivers in Europe, and it is also common in those of North America. So prolific is this fish, that the females frequently contain a bushel of spawn each. In one of them was found no fewer than one hundred and fifty thousand million eggs! The delicacy called caviar is made from the roe of the Sturgeon.

THE TORPEDO, OR ELECTRIC RAY.



THIS is a very wonderful marine animal, endowed with an electric power, for which it is provided with a natural apparatus. It gives a smart shock to a person who handles it, similar to that produced by the electrical machine. The body of this fish is nearly circular. It is sometimes so large as to weigh between seventy and eighty pounds. The skin is smooth, of a dusky brown colour, and white underneath.

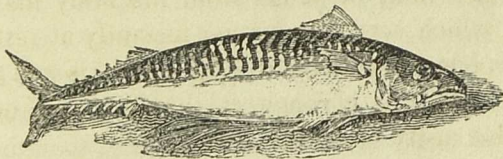
The shock imparted by the touch of the Cramp-fish, as the Torpedo is vulgarly called, is often attended with a sudden sickness at the stomach, a general tremour, a kind of convulsion, and sometimes a total suspension of the faculties of the mind. Such power of self-defence has Providence allowed this animal! Whenever his enemy approaches him, he emits from his body his benumbing charm, which sets the pursuer instantly at rest, and gives the Torpedo time to escape. But it is not a means of defence only, as through it the Torpedo benumbs his prey, and easily seizes upon it.

THE ELECTRICAL EEL.



THIS has the same power as that of the preceding fish. It is about three feet in length, and twelve inches in circumference in the thickest part of the body. The head is broad, flat, and large; the mouth wide, and destitute of teeth. Persons have sometimes been knocked down with a stroke from this eel. One of them having been taken from a net, an English sailor, notwithstanding all the persuasions that were used to prevent him, would insist upon taking it up; but the moment he grasped it, he dropped down in a fit; his eyes were fixed, his face became livid, and it was not without difficulty that his senses were restored. This most singular creature is peculiar to South America, where it is found only in fresh water.

THE MACKEREL.



THIS fish is taken and well known in all parts of the world. It is usually about a foot in length, or more; the body is thick, firm, and fleshy, slender toward the tail; the snout

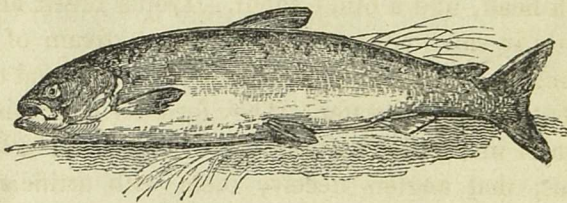
sharp, the tail forked, the back of a lovely green, beautifully variegated, or, as it were, painted with black strokes; the belly is of a silvery colour, reflecting, as well as the sides, the most elegant tints, imitating the opal and the mother-of-pearl.

Nothing can be more interesting and pleasing to the eye than to see them, just caught, brought on shore by the fishermen, and spread, with all their radiancy, upon the pebbles of the beach, at the first rays of the rising sun; but when they are taken out of their element, they quickly die.

This fish visits our shores, as well as those of England and Scotland, in vast shoals. The fisheries employ many men, and great capital, in both countries. The usual bait is a piece of red cloth or tail of a Mackerel.

They are preserved by pickling and salting; and in this state they have a little the flavour of salmon. Their voracity has scarcely any bounds; and when they get among a shoal of herrings they make immense havock.

THE SALMON.



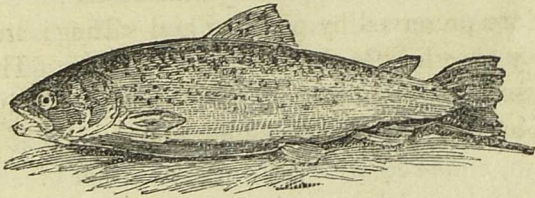
THIS fish has two fins on the back, and teeth both in the jaws and tongue; it is covered with round striated scales. The colour of the back and sides is gray, sometimes spotted with black. It lives in the salt water during the frozen season, and ascends the rivers of northern countries in the spring.

It seems to seek the sources of the streams, as nearly as

possible, to deposit there its eggs in security. It used to be common in the rivers of New England, and has been seen within the memory of persons now living far up the mountain streams of Vermont. Formerly it was caught as plentifully as shad in Connecticut river, and was sold for two or three coppers apiece. It is now seldom obtained in America, except in the rivers of Maine, and farther north.

It is abundant in the rivers of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and some of the northern rivers of the continent. It holds, perhaps, the first rank among fish for delicacy and flavour.

THE TROUT.



THIS fish, in figure, resembles the salmon; it has a short roundish head, and a blunt snout. Trouts breed and live constantly in small rivers, the transparent stream of which frets along upon the clean pebbles and beds of sand that lie at the bottom of the water. They feed on river flies and other water insects, and are so fond of them, and so blindly voracious, that anglers deceive them with artificial flies made up of feathers, wool, and other materials, which resemble very closely the natural ones.

Trouts have been caught weighing thirty pounds. They are abundant in the American lakes and rivers, as well as those of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and the north of Europe. They are considered the most delicious of river fish, and the taking of them is a favourite amusement with those who have taste and leisure for the pursuit. Izaak

Walton, an old author, has written a very entertaining work on the various kinds of angling, and has, in particular, treated of Trout fishing in a pleasing manner.

For my own part, however, I can hardly think that fishing for mere sport is entirely right. The inhabitants of the waters are doubtless as happy as those of the land or the air, and we have no privilege which authorizes us to put an end to the existence and terminate the happiness of any of these, for so light a reason as that of our own momentary pleasure. If the Creator has seen fit to make them, there is, doubtless, a good reason why man should not wantonly destroy them. We have certainly a right to take the lives of these animals, and use them for our substantial wants; but a kind heart will be reluctant to quench the light of life and happiness in the humblest creature for so inadequate an end as amusement. The fishes, indeed, devour each other for subsistence, and, when their interests clash, they engage in battle, for so their instincts teach them: but they never destroy each other in wanton sport; and man, endowed with reason, should not break a rule of mercy which God has taught to mere animals.

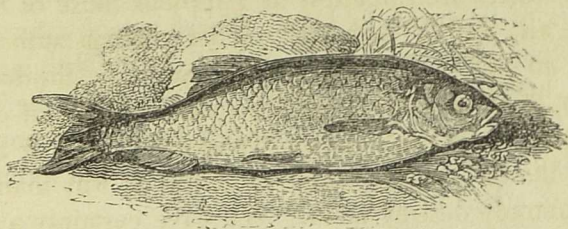
THE SHAD.

THIS delicious fish is peculiar to America. Its habits resemble those of the salmon; in size, it is however smaller, being never found more than about nineteen inches in length, and weighing only six or seven pounds. It is, however, scarcely inferior to its rival as a luxury of the table; and, although it is one of the most abundant, it is also the favourite fish of America. Those caught in the northern rivers are most esteemed. Connecticut river Shad are particularly valued.

Immense numbers of this fish are caught in the spring, and used for immediate consumption. Others are packed and barreled up, and sent to various parts of the country,

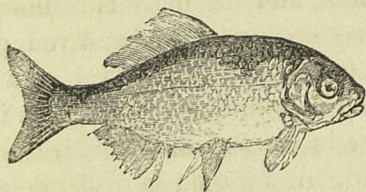
and to the West Indies. In ascending the American rivers in the steam-boats, the Shad fishers are frequently seen encircling their unconscious victims with their long nets.

THE CHUB.



THIS is of a coarse nature, and full of bones; it seldom exceeds the weight of five pounds. It frequents the deep holes of rivers, but in the summer season, when the sun shines, it ascends to the surface, and lies quiet under the cooling shade of the trees that spread their foliage on the verdant banks; but yet, though it seems to indulge itself in slumbers, the fear of danger keeps the creature awake, and at the least alarm it dives with rapidity to the bottom. It lives on all sorts of insects. When it seizes a bait, it bites so eagerly, that its jaws are often heard to chop like those of a dog.

THE GOLD-FISH, OR GOLDEN CARP.

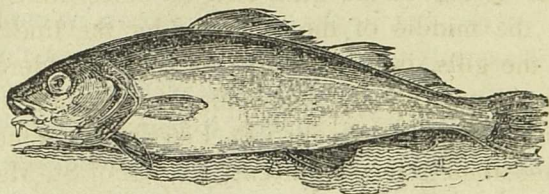


THIS was originally brought from China, and first introduced into England in 1661, but is now become quite common. It seldom exceeds the length of seven inches and a half,

and very few attain this size. They are here, as well as in China, highly valued by people of fashion. Nothing is more pleasing than to see them glide along and play in the transparent crystal of a piece of water.

The smallest fish are preferred, not only from their being more beautiful than the larger ones, but because a greater number of them can be kept. These are of a fine orange red colour, appearing as if sprinkled over with gold dust. Some, however, are white, like silver; and others, white spotted with red. When Gold-fish are kept in ponds they are often taught to rise to the surface of the water at the sound of a bell to be fed.

THE COD-FISH.



THIS is a noble inhabitant of the seas, not only on account of his size, but also for the goodness of his flesh, either fresh or salted. The body measures sometimes above three and even four feet in length, with a proportionable thickness. The back is of a brown olive colour, with white spots on the sides, and the belly is entirely white. The eyes are large and staring. The head is broad and fleshy, and esteemed a delicious dish.

They are found only in northern seas, and at present the chief fisheries are in the Bay of Canada, on the great bank of Newfoundland, and off the isle of St. Peter, and the isle of Sable. The vessels frequenting these fisheries are from a hundred to two hundred tons burden, and will each catch thirty thousand Cod, or upwards. The best season is from the beginning of February to the end of April. Each

fisherman takes only one Cod at a time, and yet the more experienced will catch from three to four hundred in a day.

Cod-fish live principally upon worms, and for this reason they frequent shallows in the ocean. An immense quantity of them are consumed yearly, and many hundreds of British and American seamen are engaged in the fisheries during summer. The Cod is the most prolific of fish; nine millions of eggs have been found in one of moderate size.

THE HADDOCK.

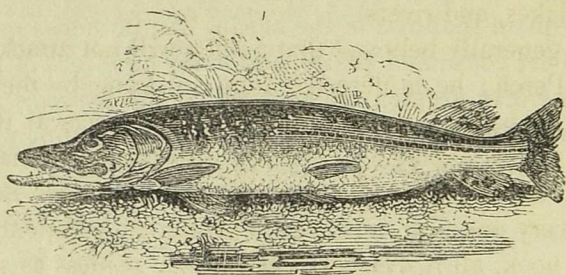
THIS is much less in size than the cod-fish, and differs somewhat from it in shape; it is of a bluish colour on the back, with small scales; a black line is carried on from the upper corner of the gills on both sides down to the tail; in the middle of the sides, under the line a little beneath the gills, is a black spot on each shoulder, which resembles the mark of a man's finger and thumb; from which circumstance it is called St. Peter's fish, alluding to the fact recorded in the seventeenth chapter of St. Matthew: "Go thou to the sea, and cast a hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up, and, when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money; that take and give unto them for me and thee." And while St. Peter held the fish with his fore finger and thumb, it is fabled, that the skin received then, and preserved to this moment, the hereditary impression.

THE PIKE.

THE body of this fish is a pale olive gray, deepest on the back, and marked on the sides by several yellowish spots or patches; its length is from four to eight feet. The flesh is white and firm, and considered very wholesome. The larger and older it is, the more it is esteemed.

There is scarcely any fish of its size in the world that in

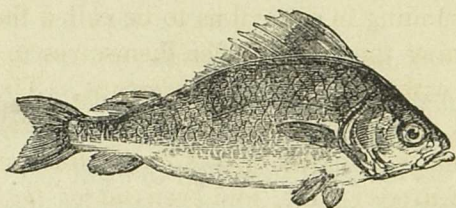
voracity can equal the Pike. It lives in rivers, lakes, and ponds; and in a confined piece of water it will soon



destroy all other fish, as it generally does not feed upon any thing else, and often swallows one nearly as big as itself; for, through its greediness in eating, it takes the head foremost, and so draws it in by little and little at a time, till it has absorbed the whole.

Boulker, in his Art of Angling, says, that his father caught a Pike, which he presented to Lord Cholmondeley, that was an ell long, and weighed thirty-six pounds. His lordship directed it to be put into a canal in his garden, which at that time contained a great quantity of fish. Twelve months afterwards the water was drawn off, and it was discovered that the Pike had devoured all the fish except a large carp that weighed between nine or ten pounds; and even this had been bitten in several places.

THE PERCH.

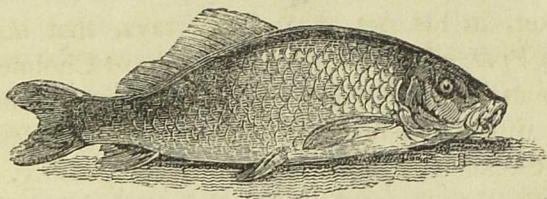


THIS fish seldom grows to any great size; yet we have an account of one which is said to have weighed nine pounds.

The body is deep, the scales rough, the back arched, and the side fins placed near the back. For beauty of colours, the Perch vies with the gaudiest of the inhabitants of the ponds, lakes, and rivers.

It is generally believed that a Pike will not attack a full grown Perch; he is deterred from so doing by the spiny fins of its back, which this fish always erects at the approach of an enemy. They are so voracious, that it is said, if an expert angler find a shoal of them, he may catch every one. If, however, a single fish escape that has felt the hook, all is over; he becomes so restless as soon to occasion the whole shoal to leave the place.

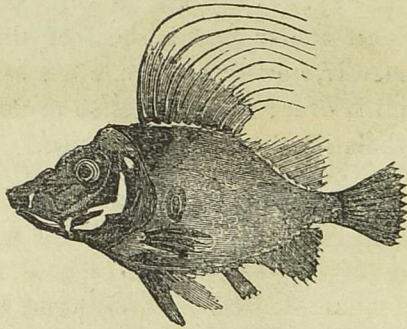
THE CARP.



THIS fish has very small teeth and a broad tongue; the tail is widely spread, as well as the fins, which are inclined to a reddish tint. Those that live in rivers and running streams are most approved, as those which inhabit pools and ponds have generally a muddy, disagreeable taste. Though so cunning in general as to be called the river fox, yet at spawning time they suffer themselves to be tickled and caught without attempting to escape. They are very tenacious of life, and when cut into quarters, the head being divided in two, the pieces have often been seen to jump off the dresser-table, and even *out of the frying-pan into the fire*, which circumstance has given birth to the proverb. In the canals of Chantilly, formerly the seat of

the Prince of Condé, Carps have been kept for above one hundred years, most of them appearing hoary through old age, and so tame that they answered to their names when the keeper called them to be fed.

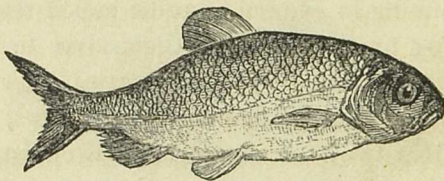
THE JOHN DOREE.



THIS fish is greatly esteemed for its delicious flavour; it is said that Quin, a famous actor in England, went from London to Plymouth, that he might eat it in perfection and abundance.

The colour of a John Doree is a dark green, marked with black spots, with a golden gloss. It is this which gives him the name of Doree, that word being the French for *gilded*.

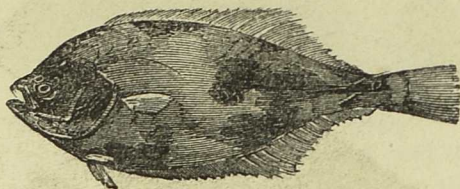
THE ROACH.



THIS is a small fish, very common in our rivulets, ponds, and lakes. It weighs from half a pound to a pound. It

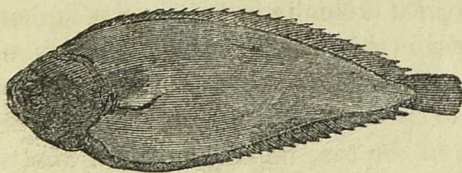
prepares a bed of sand for its spawn, and may be often seen attending it with great vigilance and care. It is caught with a hook, and has a fine flavour, but the flesh is not firm.

THE FLOUNDER.



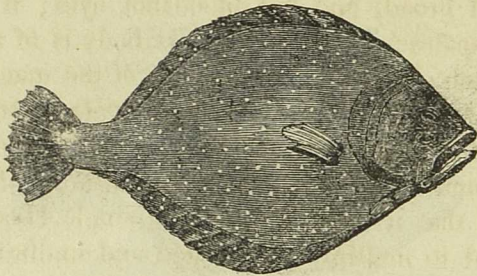
THIS is a common fish both in Europe and America; it is shaped like the turbot, and is valued, though in an inferior degree, for the table. It lives in the sea and at the mouths of rivers, and subsists on decayed flesh and fish.

THE SOLE.



THIS is well known in Europe as an excellent fish, whose flesh is firm, delicate, and of a pleasing flavour. They grow to the length of eighteen inches, and even more in some seas. They are common in England, and are found in the Mediterranean and several other waters: when in season they are in great requisition for the most luxurious tables.

THE TURBOT.



THE Turbot is a well known and much esteemed fish for the delicate taste, firmness, and sweetness of its flesh. This fish is sometimes two feet and a half long, and about two broad. The scales on the skin are so very small that they are hardly perceptible. The colour of the upper side of the body is a dark brown, spotted with dirty yellow; the under side a pure white, tinged on the edges with somewhat like flesh-colour, or pale pink.

There is a great difficulty in baiting the Turbot, as he is very fastidious in his food; nothing can allure him but herrings, or small slices of haddocks, and lampreys; and, as he lies in deep water, flirting and paddling on the oose at the bottom of the sea, no net can reach him, so that he is generally caught by hook and line. He is found chiefly on the northern coasts of England, Scotland, and Holland.

THE HOLIBUT.

THIS fish is shaped like the turbot, but it is larger, and its flesh is coarser. It is common in the waters of America, as well as in those of the north of Europe. They sometimes are taken weighing two, or even three, hundred pounds.

THE HERRING.

THIS fish is about nine or ten inches long, and about two and a half broad, and has bloodshot eyes; it has large roundish scales; a forked tail; the body is of a fat, soft, delicate flesh, but stronger than that of the mackerel, and therefore less wholesome; yet some people are so very fond of it, that they call the Herring *the king of fishes*.

The fecundity of the Herring is astonishing. It has been calculated that if the offspring of a single Herring could be suffered to multiply unmolested and undiminished for twenty years, they would exhibit a bulk ten times the size of the earth. But, happily, Providence has so contrived the balance of nature by giving them innumerable enemies. All the monsters of the deep find them an easy prey; and, in addition to these, the immense flocks of sea-fowl that inhabit the polar regions, watch their outset, and spread devastation on all sides.

In the year 1773, the Herrings, for two months, were in such immense shoals on the Scotch coasts, that it appears, from tolerably accurate computations, no fewer than one thousand six hundred and fifty boat-loads were taken in Loch Terridon in one night. These would, in the whole, amount to nearly twenty thousand barrels.

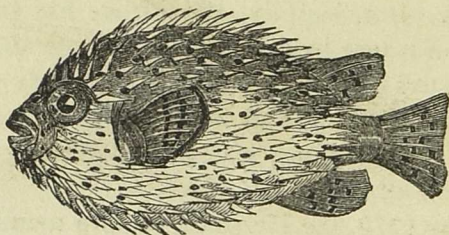
Vast shoals of this fish migrate from one region to another. About June they reach the islands north of Scotland, and, passing around England, unite at the southwestern point. They thence pursue their way to America, and fill every bay, river, and creek. Recent naturalists, however, seem disposed to disbelieve their migratory nature.

The Herring fisheries in America and in Europe are extensive. The fish are caught in nets at night. A common method is to take a torch into a boat, which is then rowed forward with great rapidity. The fish, allured by

the light, follow the boat, and press around the stern in great numbers. Here a man is stationed, who scoops them out of the water into the boat. The spectacle exhibited by the Herring fisheries is said to be striking and picturesque.

The manner of curing Herrings is this: after lying awhile in a boat, or on the deck of a vessel, they are put for twenty-four hours into a strong brine; they are then hung over a fire of brushwood till sufficiently smoked. The fish thus prepared are called Red Herrings.

THE SEA PORCUPINE.



THIS curious fish varies in dimension, from the size of an apple to fifty times that bulk. When enraged, he puffs himself up, so that his body is as round as a bladder. He is found in America, and some other parts of the world. It is a pity that he is not more common, that every person, subject to violent fits of anger, might have an opportunity of seeing his image in this ugly creature.

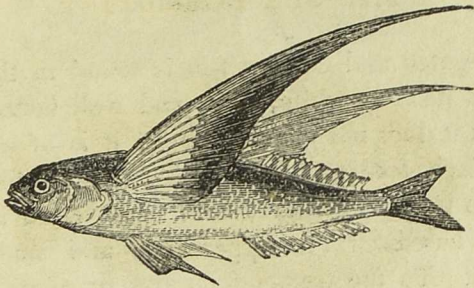
THE ANCHOVY.

THE upper jaw of this fish is longer than the under; the back is brown; the sides and belly silvery; fins short; the dorsal fin, opposite the ventrals, transparent; the tail fin forked. Its length about three inches.

Like the herring, these fish leave the deeps of the open

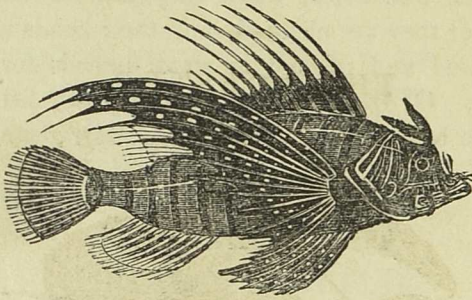
sea, in order to frequent the smooth and shallow places of the coasts for the purpose of spawning. The fishermen generally light a fire on the shore, for the purpose of attracting the anchovies, when they fish for them in the night. After they are cleaned, and their heads are cut off, they are cured and packed in small barrels for sale and exportation. Of these fish the well known fish sauce is made. The best are found in the Mediterranean.

THE FLYING FISH.



THIS fish is slender and long, with a large staring eye. The fins on each side of the back are so long and wide as to answer the purpose of wings. These not only assist it in flying, but enable it to swim through the water with amazing velocity. Aided by them, he flies nearly to the distance of a gun-shot before he touches the water; and when he has slightly dipped, in order to rest himself, mounts up again; a curious manœuvre, by which he often escapes the jaws of the dolphins, which swim rapidly in pursuit of him. He is, however, exposed to the attacks of birds, who endeavour to fall upon him. To escape these, he betakes himself again to the water. He is a native of the Mediterranean, and is found in many other seas in warm climates.

THE FLYING SCORPION.



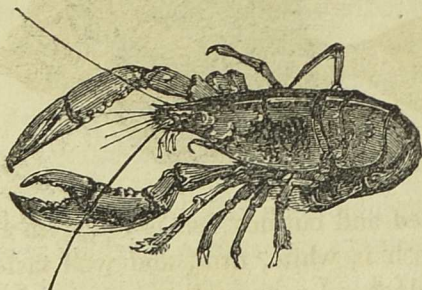
THIS variegated and curious fish is found in the rivers of Japan; its flesh is white, firm, and well tasted, like our perch, but it does not grow so large; it is of a very voracious stomach, feeding on the young of other fish, some of which, two inches in length, have been found in its craw. The skin has both the appearance and smoothness of parchment. To the tremendous armour of its back, fins, and tail, this fish owes the name of Scorpion.

THE SEA HORSE.

THIS is a small fish of a curious shape. The length seldom reaches twelve inches; the head bears some resemblance to that of a horse, whence originates its name. A long back fin runs from the head to the tail, which is spirally curved. The eggs of this fish are hatched in a pouch, formed by an expansion of the skin, which in some is placed under the belly, and in others at the base of the tail, and which opens to allow the young to get out.

In Europe this fish is often seen in cabinets and museums in a dried state.

Shell Fish.

—
THE LOBSTER.

THIS fish has large claws, which enable him to seize on his prey, to fix himself on the small prominences of rocks in the sea, to resist the motion of the waves, and to fight his enemies. Beside his claws, he has four small legs on each side, to assist him in his awkward movements. Lobsters are said to cast their shells annually. Previously to putting off their old shell they appear sick, languid, and restless. They acquire an entirely new covering in a few days.

They are extremely prolific. Dr. Baxter says he counted twelve thousand four hundred and forty-four eggs produced by one lobster.

They are caught in abundance along the rocky coasts of America and European countries. They are caught in traps, which are so constructed as to admit them, but not suffer them to escape. The traps are baited with garbage.

THE CRAB.



THIS is an amphibious animal, living on land and in water. Crabs are of various sizes, some weighing several pounds, and others only a few grains, all of different species. They move not forward, but on one side, as it suits them best. They have a small tail closed on the body, which is a considerable and essential difference between them and the lobster.

They are said to change their shells and broken claws; the former they do once a year. When they are getting their new shells, Dr. Darwin says, that a Crab, whose shell is sound and in good condition, always stands sentinel to protect them in their weak and defenceless condition from the sea insects: he displays great courage in this duty, though at other times he is a timid creature.

They are naturally quarrelsome amongst themselves, and frequently have serious contests, by means of those formidable weapons, their great claws. With these they lay hold of their adversary's legs; and, wherever they seize, it is not easy to make them forego their hold. The animal seized has, therefore, no other alternative but to leave part of the leg behind in token of victory. Its mode of doing this is curious. It stretches the claw out steadily; a gentle crack is heard; and the wounded limb drops off.

OYSTERS.

THESE are found in almost all countries, and grow to an enormous size in some parts of the world. There are no less than a hundred and thirty-six species. They are found in the East Indies measuring two feet in diameter.

The principal breeding season of Oysters is in the months of April and May, when they cast their spawn upon rocks, stones, shells, or any other hard substance that happens to be near the place where they lie; and to these the spawn immediately adhere. From the spawning time till about the end of July the Oysters are said to be sick; but early in August they become perfectly recovered. During these months they are out of season, and are bad eating.

Oysters breathe by means of gills. They draw the water in at their mouth, a small opening in the upper part of their body, drive it down along a canal that constitutes the base of the gills, and so out again, retaining the air that is requisite for the functions of the body.

The Oyster excludes its young completely formed; though the parts are not visible without a magnifying glass.

THE MUSCLE AND ADMIRAL.

LIKE the oyster, the Muscle inhabits a bivalve shell, to which he adheres, as others of that species, by a strong cartilaginous tie. The shells of several Muscles are beautiful. The Muscle possesses the property of locomotion, which he performs with that member called the tongue of the Muscle; by this tongue he gets hold of the rock, and, by moving it along, is enabled to change his situation; he has also the property of emitting some kind of threads, which, fixing at the sides of the shell upon the ground, answer the purpose of cables to keep the body of the fish steady.

The Admiral is so called from the uncommon beauty of the shell. It is a sort of snail. If Nature has taken delight in painting the wings of birds, the skins of quadru-

ped, and the scales of fishes, she seems not to have been less pleased in pencilling the shells of these inhabitants of the deep.

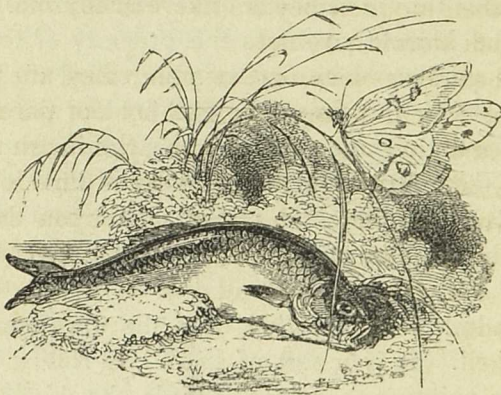
THE SNIPE AND WILK.

THE Snipe, a shell-fish, is so called on account of the curious length of a prominency coming out of the shell. It is surrounded with blunt prickles, and the colour of the whole is elegantly variegated.

The Wilk belongs to the family of the Turbines. It is the shell which the soldier crab generally adopts for his temporary abode, not having been furnished by Nature with a shell of his own.

THE LIMPET.

THIS is found on the rocks, beaten by the surges of the ocean, in almost all parts of the world. The shell is much admired, being sometimes of a beautiful purple tint. The animal that lives under this tasteful canopy is a kind of slug, being, like many well dressed people, very stupid and very uninteresting.



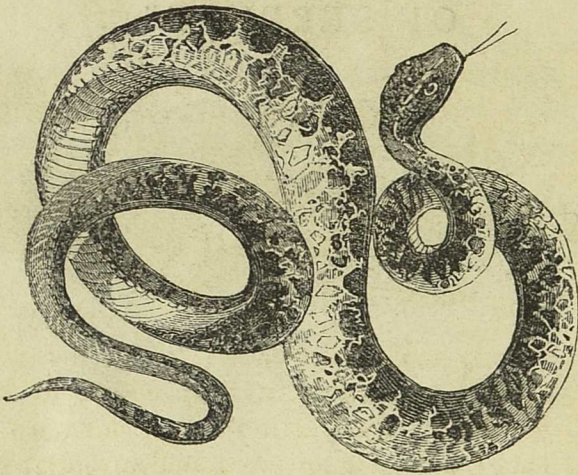
OF SERPENTS.



THESE creatures constitute by themselves a distinct class. The general character is that they breathe, like quadrupeds, through the mouth by means of lungs; and are, like fishes, destitute of feet. They have neither fins like eels, nor feet like the lizards, yet they resemble the former by the pliancy of their bodies, and the latter by the texture of their skins, which are often covered with scales, and by their pointed tails. In their motions they are like worms; but they have lungs, which worms have not.

They shed their skins once a year; they are produced from eggs, which, being deposited by the parent snake, are hatched by the heat of the sun. Some are harmless, and some are furnished with poison, which is communicated with their bite. None of these chew their food, but swallow it whole, and digest it very slowly. Some kinds, as the Rattlesnake, will live in a cage for years without food.

THE BOA.



THIS Serpent has been known to measure twenty and even thirty feet in length. Its colour is of a yellowish brown, marked with a series of large brown blotches, bordered with black. It is the largest of land serpents, and is found in Africa and India. The extent of its muscular power is truly wonderful. The buffalo and stag frequently become the victims of its rapacity, as well as smaller animals.

There is a story related of a sailor lying asleep on the beach, in the island of Celebes, who was killed by a Serpent thirty feet long, and as thick as a man's body. It seized the poor fellow by the waist, and coiled itself round his head, neck, breast, and thighs, as represented in the cut, thus instantly crushing him to death.

This Serpent reduces its prey to one uniform mass, by crushing it with its spiral folds; it then lubricates the body with some mucilaginous substance, and, distending

its jaws, swallows it by one gradual and long continued

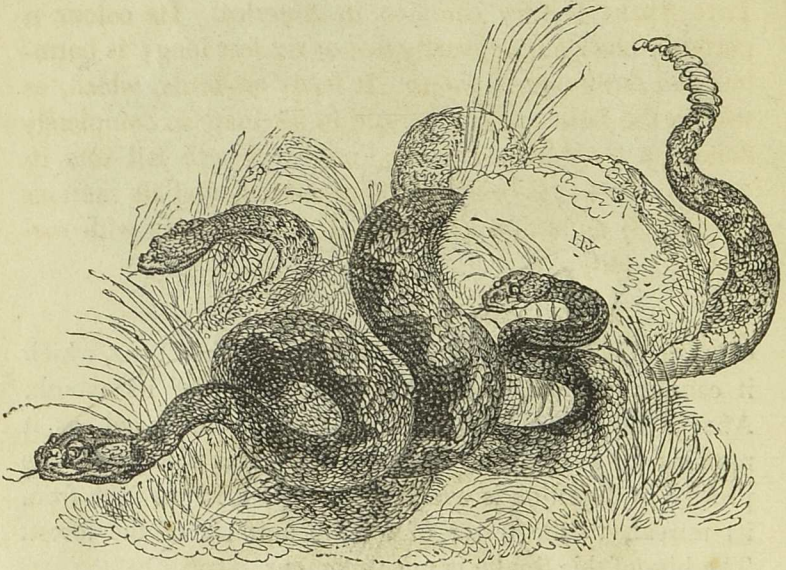


effort. When a stag has formed its meal, the horns, which it cannot swallow, are seen sticking out of its mouth. After it has gorged its food it is easily destroyed, as it remains for a length of time stupid and unwieldy, till the process of digestion is over, when it again issues forth from its retreat, to the terror of all the animals of the forest. The bite of this Snake is not venomous.

THE ANACONDA.

THIS Snake, which is found in South America, resembles the former in its manner of destroying and swallowing its food. After a meal it remains in a state of torpor five or six weeks. Three years ago one of the serpents at the Tower in London, nearly blind, coiled itself round the neck and hand of Mr. Cops, its keeper, instead of the fowl which was presented to it, and had it not been for the vigorous exertions of the under keepers present it would have throttled him. It was so determined in its hold, that in disengaging it two of its teeth were broken off.

THE RATTLESNAKE.



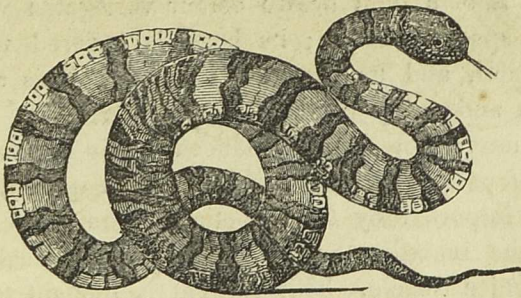
THIS Serpent is rendered terrible by the malignity of the poison which is contained in a gland near the roots of its tongue, and which is infused into the wound caused by the bite. This occasions death after a short space, unless counteracted by proper remedies. The usual length of this Snake is from four to six feet; the tail is furnished with a rattle formed of rings, which it shakes violently when it is disturbed, or in the pursuit of prey.

These Serpents are not known in the eastern continent, but are common in some parts of America. Fortunately they are inoffensive except when provoked, and their warning rattle gives notice of their approach. They feed on small quadrupeds and birds, which they are said to fascinate by their gaze; but the truth is, they terrify the objects selected for their attack to such a degree as to render them incapable of escape.

THE BLACK SNAKE.

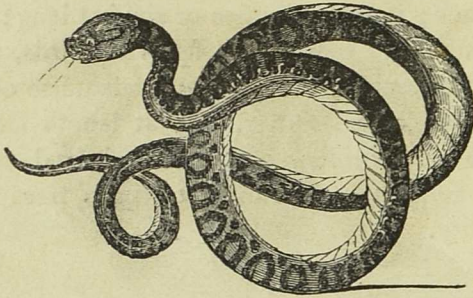
THIS Snake is very common in America. Its colour is perfectly black; it is usually five or six feet long; is harmless and destitute of venom. It feeds on birds, which, as well as the rattlesnake, it is said to fascinate so completely that they tremble and flutter, and at length fall into its mouth. Its eye is brilliant and animated, and its motions remarkably agile and graceful. It climbs trees with surprising facility.

THE ANNULATED SNAKE.



THIS Snake is a native of South America. There are many elegant varieties of this species, but the general colour is white, with brown transverse bars, which are very distinct on the back. The tail is very slender.

THE EGYPTIAN VIPER.

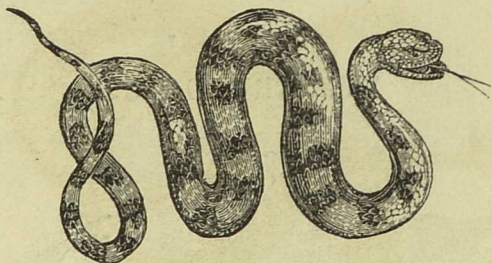


THE length of this serpent is from twenty inches to three feet. It is of a light brown colour variegated with rich chestnut spots or bands; its head is covered with very small scales, and its eyes are vertical. It is abundant in Egypt and many parts of Africa and Asia. Its bite is poisonous; but death produced by it is said to be devoid of pain, and very speedy. Large quantities were formerly imported by the Venetians, who used them as one of the ingredients of that strange medical farrago called Venice treacle. This serpent is thought to be the same as the asp, which put an end to the existence of the celebrated queen of Egypt.

THE COMMON VIPER.

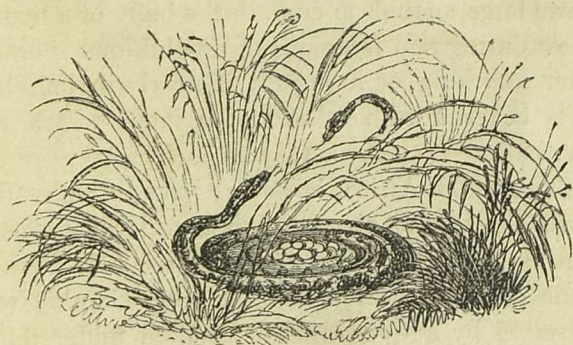
THIS snake is abundant in Europe, and some parts of America. It is usually two or three feet in length. Its bite is very poisonous; but it never assails men or animals unless wounded or irritated, when it becomes furious. When held firmly by the tail, it cannot turn itself round enough to bite, as its head is the only part that can be

turned about with any quickness ; indeed, Viper catchers in England sometimes seize Vipers suddenly by the neck, and do not suffer from their boldness.



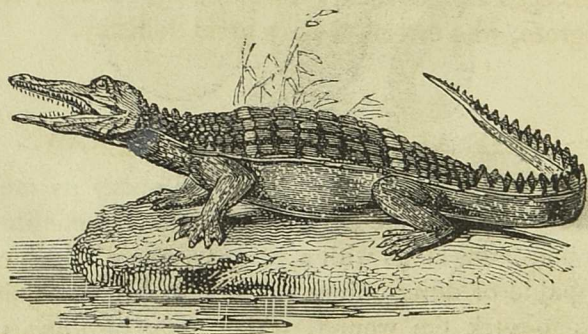
When held by the neck the Viper opens its mouth in order to bite, when the person who holds it sometimes cuts off its poisonous fangs with a pair of scissors, which renders it incapable of doing injury. The best remedy against the bite is to suck the wound, which may be done without danger, and after this to rub it with sweet oil, and poultice it with bread and milk.

These serpents feed on small animals.



OF REPTILES.

THE CROCODILE.



THIS formidable animal is found on the banks of the Nile, Niger, and Ganges. Its length is sometimes twenty feet, the tail being about five feet and a half long; its feet are webbed, its eyes very small in proportion, its mouth furnished with strong rows of teeth, and the space between the jaws large enough to contain the body of a man. It is the most daring and ferocious of amphibious animals, and, whether attacking or attacked, is nearly invincible, as its body is covered with a sort of armour which repels a musket ball.

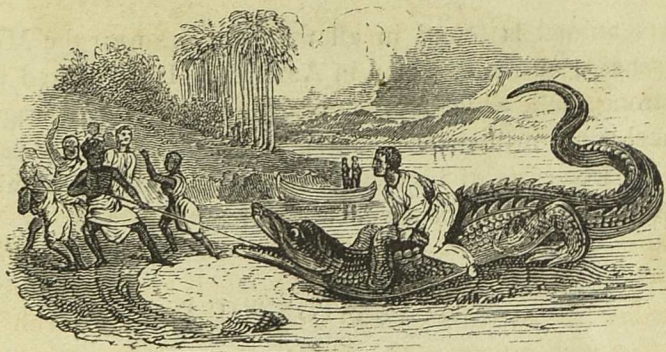
The negroes of Africa, however, have little dread of this powerful animal, as they are so familiar with its habits, and so skilful in resisting its attacks. Mr. Park relates that one of his guides across the river Gambia was suddenly seized by a Crocodile and pulled under the water; upon which the negro thrust his fingers into the animal's eyes with such violence that it quitted its hold, but seizing

him again, he resorted to the same expedient and with more success, as it again released him, appeared stupified, and then swam down the river.

A method used by the Africans for destroying the Crocodile is to thrust the arm well bound with ox hides down its throat, and to plunge a dagger into its vitals.

These monsters are providentially kept from being a scourge to mankind by the circumstance, that thousands of their eggs are constantly devoured by vultures, and even by negroes, who esteem them a great delicacy.

THE ALLIGATOR, OR CAYMAN.

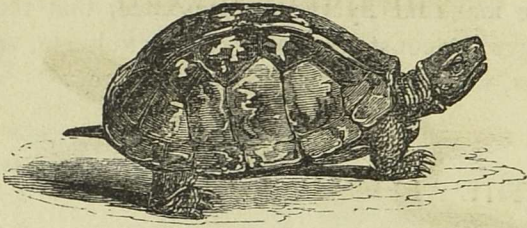


THE habits and appearance of this animal are similar to those of the crocodile. It is known only in America, and is most abundant in the tropical regions. It does not exceed eighteen feet in length.

There is a very curious account in Mr. Waterton's Wanderings in South America, of the capture of a Cayman. A large one having been caught by means of a hook attached to a rope, in one of the rivers of Brazil, Mr. W. was anxious to secure it alive; he therefore collected a body of the natives together, and they drew the Cayman by main force out upon the bank of the river.

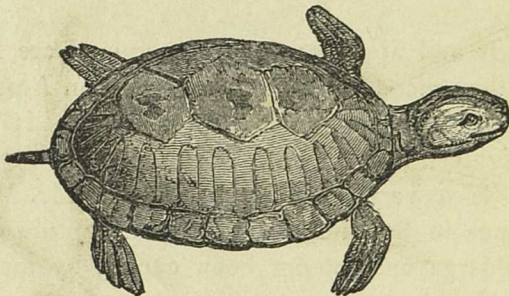
Upon this Mr. W. sprang upon his back, seized his fore legs, and twisted them over his neck. The people then dragged the beast and his rider over the sand with shouts of triumph.

THE LAND TORTOISE.



THIS animal is found in all the countries near the Mediterranean, and is common in America. It is covered with a strong shell, which resists even the pressure of a waggon wheel; and it lives sometimes a hundred and twenty years. Its food consists of insects, worms, and plants of a milky nature. It is nine or ten inches in length.

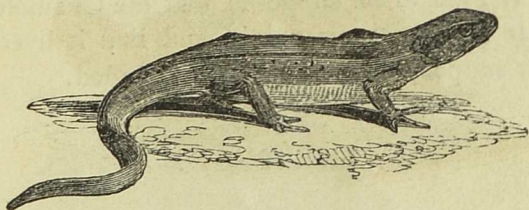
THE SEA TORTOISE.



THIS animal, so long the delight of the epicure, is found in the East and West Indies. It ascends from the water, and crawls on the beach in search of food, where it some-

times sleeps, and by throwing it on its back can be easily taken, as it cannot turn itself over again. Turtles have been found eight feet long; they commonly grow to nearly six feet. Their flesh is very sweet, without any fishy flavour, and has been introduced into England as an article of luxury eighty or ninety years.

THE GREEN LIZARD.



So called from its colour, is an amphibious animal, and is found chiefly in warm countries, where it is sometimes two feet long. It is very gentle and harmless, but will defend itself if attacked. The upper parts of its body are of a beautiful green, variegated with yellow and brown; it is covered with scales, which, when exposed to the sun's rays, have a very brilliant appearance.

THE CHAMELEON.

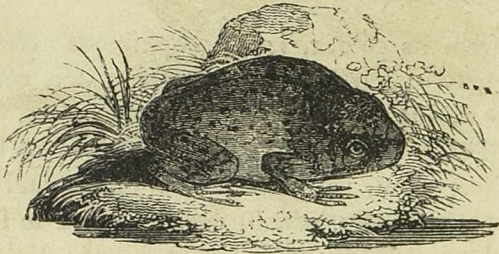


THIS singular animal, of the lizard genus, possesses neither beauty of form, nor agreeable proportions, to gratify the

eye of the observer, yet it well merits the attention of the curious. It is about ten inches long, spotted all over with little knobs, which, when exposed to the sun, take different shades and colours, red, yellow, green, and brown.

Its tongue is long, round, and hollow, for the purpose of seizing the insects on which it feeds. The tail is as long as the whole body, which it coils round the branches of trees to support itself, as it is very awkward in its movements. It used to be supposed that the Chameleon took the colour of objects around it, and that it lived on air. The latter supposition is certainly unfounded.

THE TOAD.



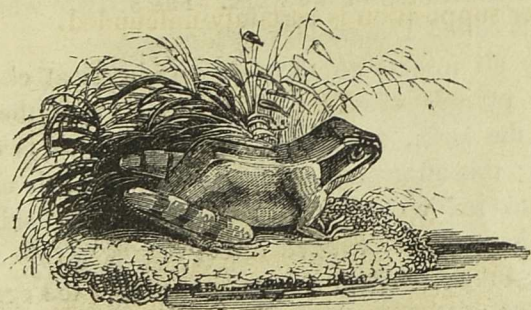
THIS reptile is usually from four to six inches in length. Somewhat like the frog in the body, he also resembles him in his habits; but the frog is nimble and leaps to a great distance, while the Toad crawls, and strives in vain to haste away. It is not venomous, as has been supposed; on the contrary, it is perfectly harmless, and may with little care be rendered tame. It, however, does exude an acrid fluid from its skin. There is a vulgar error concerning this animal, it being supposed from the great numbers which appear in rainy weather to descend with the shower.

It is a curious fact that live Toads have been repeatedly found enclosed in blocks of stone and marble, where they must have remained for many centuries.

A Toad in England, by being constantly fed, was ren-

dered so tame as always to come out of its hole in an evening when a candle was brought, and to look up as if expecting to be carried into the house, where it was frequently fed with insects. It threw out its tongue to a great distance, and the insect, stuck by the glutinous matter to its tip, was swallowed by a motion quicker than the eye could follow.

THE FROG.



THIS animal is known both in Europe and America. Its general colour is olive green, with streaks and spots of black. The hind feet are strongly webbed to assist it in swimming; they are also very long, thus enabling it to leap a surprising distance, to avoid danger. It lies buried in the mud of stagnant waters during the winter, quite torpid, and issues forth in the spring to join, with its peculiar croak, in the universal concert. In a frozen state it is as brittle as glass, yet it will return to life, if carefully wrapped in skins, and exposed to a gentle heat.

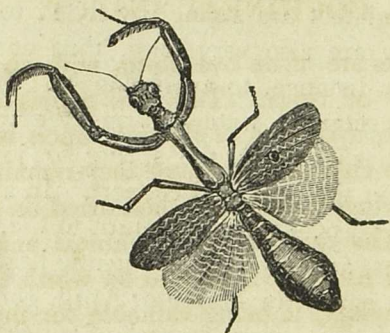
It deposits its spawn in March or April, consisting of a large heap of gelatinous eggs, in each of which is imbedded the embryo, or tadpole, in the form of a black globule. The tadpoles are generally hatched in about five weeks.

OF INSECTS.

INSECTS are so denominated from the greater number of them having a separation in the middle of their bodies, by which they are, as it were, cut into two parts, which is the original signification of the word. The science which treats of them is called Entomology.

Nearly all insects go through certain great changes at different periods of their existence. From the egg is hatched the larva, grub, or caterpillar, which is destitute of wings; this afterwards changes to a pupa, or chrysalis, wholly covered with a hard shell, or strong skin, from which the perfect or winged insect bursts forth. Spiders, and some other wingless insects, issue from the egg nearly in a perfect state.

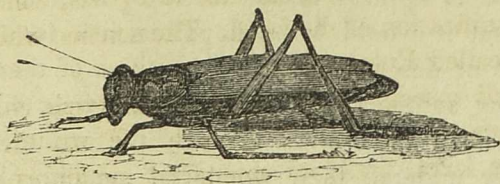
LOCUST.



THERE are upwards of two hundred species of the locust tribe. The Locust of the east is a beautiful and destructive insect, of a red colour, variegated with black and yellow; the wings are marked with different shades of green. These

insects are often mentioned in the scriptures, as the frequent instruments of divine indignation. Woe to the husbandmen upon whose lands they alight! The expectations of a year are destroyed in a few minutes by their devastations; meadows, gardens, and corn-fields, are stripped, and a famine frequently ensues.

THE GRASSHOPPER.

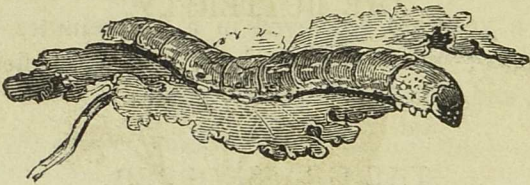


THIS well known insect in meadow and field is of a green colour. It has six legs, the two hinder ones for the purpose of leaping, which it does with great animation. It feeds on grass, and utters a chirping note, which is supposed to be caused by the fluttering of its wings.

THE COCHINEAL INSECT.

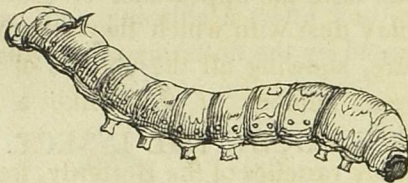
THESE little insects are of an oval form, with six feet, and a body composed of rings. They are nourished by the juice of the nopal, a species of fig-tree, upon which they are placed by the cultivators, where they remain till they are killed with boiling water, and then dried on hot stones or in the sun. The quantity of Cochineal annually exported from South America is said to be worth two and a half millions of dollars, it being valuable for the brilliant scarlet colour that it affords to the dyers. Plantations of fifty or sixty thousand trees, devoted to the nurture of this insect, may be seen growing in straight lines in some parts of South America.

THE CATERPILLAR.



THIS name is applied to the larvæ of such a variety of insects, that it would be a hopeless task to attempt to enumerate or describe them. Quantities of them may be seen during summer enclosed in a fine web, which they spin to defend themselves through the winter. In the spring they undergo their wonderful metamorphosis into chrysalides and butterflies.

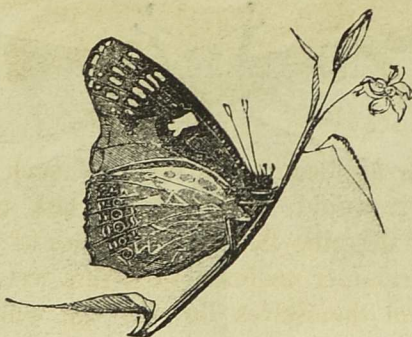
THE SILKWORM.



THIS Worm has long been of singular service to man. When it is first produced it is entirely black, and then undergoes three changes of colour before it takes the form of a chrysalis. At this time it encloses itself in a ball of silk which it spins. These balls, or cones, are then placed in hot water, and wound off. The length of thread which one of these contains sometimes measures three hundred yards.

In warm climates these insects are left at liberty on the mulberry trees, where they are hatched, and where they form their cones; but in cooler countries they are kept in a room with a south aspect, and fed every day with fresh mulberry leaves.

THE BUTTERFLY.



THIS insect has six legs, but only makes use of four. Its wings are four in number, and though two of them may be cut off, yet it still has the power of flying. These are transparent, but have the appearance of opacity, from the beautiful feathery dust with which they are covered. The eye has a lustre, showing all the colours of the rainbow, and has a great number of sides like a brilliant cut diamond.

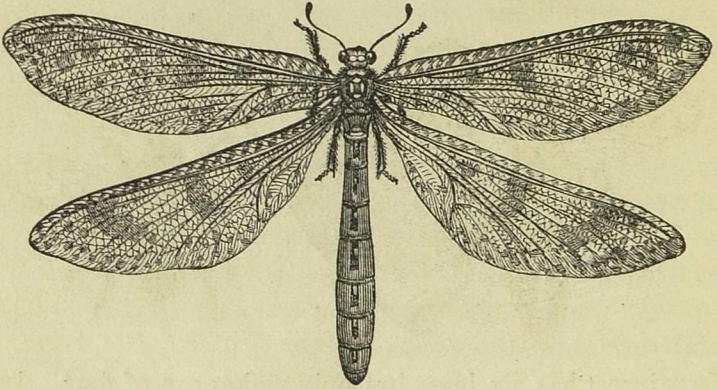
There are many varieties of the Butterfly, from the party-coloured and gaudy tribes, to the modest yellow inhabitant of meadows and gardens.

LIBELLULA, OR DRAGON-FLY.

OF all the flies which adorn or diversify the face of nature, these are the most various and the most beautiful; they are of all colours; green, blue, crimson, scarlet, white, &c.

They are distinguished from all other flies by the length of their bodies, the largeness of their eyes, and the beautiful transparency of their wings, which are four in number. They are seen in summer flying with great rapidity near

every hedge, and by every running brook ; they sometimes settle on the leaves of plants, and sometimes keep for hours together on the wing.

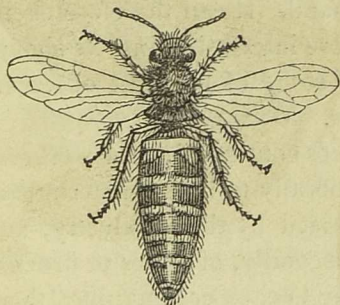


Dragon-flies, though there are three or four different kinds, yet agree in the most striking parts of their history, and one account may serve for all. The largest sort are generally found from two to three inches long ; their tail is forked ; their body divided into eleven rings ; their eyes are large, horny, and transparent, divided by a number of intersections ; and their wings, that always lie flat when they are at rest, are of a beautiful glossy transparency ; sometimes shining like silver, and sometimes glistening like gold. Within the mouth are to be seen two teeth, covered with a beautiful lip : with these the creatures bite fiercely when they are taken ; but their bite is not venomous.

These insects, beautiful as they are, are produced from eggs, which are deposited in the water, where they remain for some time without seeming life or motion.

THE HIVE BEE.

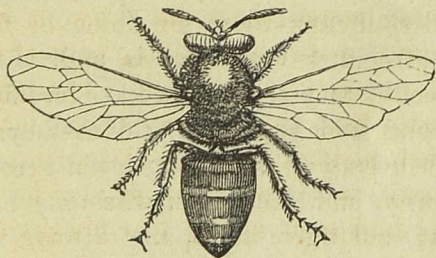
QUEEN.



WORKER.



DRONE.



THE scene presented by the interior of a Bee-hive has seldom failed to interest even the most incurious observer, while it fills with astonishment the mind of the philosopher. When the day is fine and the sun shining brightly, the habitation of these marvellous little creatures exhibits the aspect of a populous and busy city. The gates are crowded with hundreds of industrious workers—some on the wing in search of sustenance—others returning from the fields laden with food—some earnestly engaged in building—some in tending the young—others employed in cleansing their habitation—while four or five may be seen dragging out the corpse of a companion, and, as it would appear,

scrupulously paying the last honours to the dead. At one moment the entrances of the little city are comparatively free; at another, crowds of its inhabitants may be seen struggling at the gates, making the best of their way to escape from the rain, which, by some peculiar sensation, they have discovered to be at hand. It can therefore excite no wonder that the habits of these interesting insects should have attracted the attention of some of the best observers of ancient and of modern times.

A community or swarm of Bees consists, first, of workers; these are of no sex, amount generally to many thousands in number, and are easily recognised by their industry, and by the smallness of their size: secondly, of males or drones; of which several hundreds belong to each community; these are larger than the working bee, and live idly; over all presides a queen, the most important member of the whole of this little commonwealth.

It has been found that there is a division of labour among the workers; one set of workers are finished architects, who plan and build the edifice—they at the same time are the nurses of the young; while the others are mere bricklayers and plasterers, who only bring the raw material, but do not give it shape.

The cells are built of wax, made for the reception of the honey, which the Bees extract from flowers and vegetables, and which is destined for the nourishment of their numerous posterity. The queen and working bees have stings, which inflict a very painful and poisonous wound; the drones have none.

Such is the attachment of the colony to their queen bee, that if she dies, all the labours of the hive are suspended, and universal mourning ensues, her faithful subjects reject their food, and fall into confusion and anarchy.

ANTS.

THESE insects, like bees, are divided into three tribes—male, female, and neuters. They construct their habitation in the form of hills, which are composed of leaves, sand, earth, and gum, and perforated with galleries to give access to the numerous cells contained in them.

The whole tribe are busied during the summer in repairing their habitations, and laying in their winter stock of provisions. This costs them infinite labour, as they will bring from a distance any food of which they are fond, and if their burden prove too heavy for one, several will push and pull, till it is safely deposited in their storehouse. If any danger threatens, this indefatigable little race move to some more quiet spot, and begin their labours anew.

The White Ant, or Termites, common in some tropical countries, are among the most astonishing subjects of the animal kingdom. The nests of these insects are usually termed hills, from their outward appearance, which, being more or less conical, generally resemble the form of a sugar-loaf; they rise about ten or twelve feet in perpendicular height above the ordinary surface of the ground.

The Termites are represented by Linnæus as the greatest plagues of both Indies, and indeed they are justly so considered, from the vast damages and losses which they cause; they perforate and eat into wooden buildings, utensils, and furniture, with all kinds of household stuff, and merchandise; these they totally destroy, if their progress be not timely stopped.

“When they find their way,” says Kirby, “into houses or warehouses, nothing less hard than metal or glass escapes their ravages. Their favourite food, however, is wood, and so infinite is the multitude of assailants, and such the excellence of their tools, that all the timber work of a spacious

apartment is often destroyed by them in a night. Outwardly every thing appears as if untouched ; for these wary depredators, and this is what constitutes the greatest singularity of their history, carry on their operations by sap or mine, destroying first the inside of solid substances, and scarcely ever attacking their outside, until first they have concealed it and their operations with a coat of clay."

The destructiveness of these insects is, perhaps, one of the most efficient means of checking the pernicious luxuriance of vegetation within the tropics ; no large animal could effect in months what the White Ant can execute in weeks ; the largest trees which, falling, would rot, and render the air pestilential, are so thoroughly removed, that not a grain of their substance is to be recognised. Not only is the air freed from this corrupting matter, but the plants destroyed by the shade of these bulky giants of the vegetable world, are thus permitted to shoot.

THE SPIDER.



THERE are several kinds of this insect, all of which are furnished with eight legs, eight eyes, two claws, and instruments for weaving their webs. These webs are made with a glutinous substance, and are the means by which the insect obtains his food. Flies and other insects, buzzing carelessly about, no sooner fall into the snare set for them by their insidious foe, than he issues from his retreat, and makes his repast upon their blood. If his snare is broken

in any part, the Spider sets about with great diligence to repair it, and frequently clears it from dust by shaking it with his claws.

The manner of constructing this web is extremely artful and ingenious. All Spiders are furnished, at the extremity of their belly, with four or six protuberances, or spinners. Each of these protuberances is furnished with a multitude of tubes, so numerous and so exquisitely fine that, according to Reaumur, a space not much bigger than the pointed end of a pin is furnished with a thousand of them. Hence, from each spinner proceeds a compound thread. At the distance of about one-tenth of an inch from the point of the spinners these threads again unite, and form the thread which we see, and which the Spider makes use of in forming its web. Thus, a Spider's thread, even when so fine as almost to elude our senses, is not a single line, but a rope composed of at least four thousand strands.

The situations which Spiders select for the construction of their nets are extremely various. Some prefer the open air, among shrubs or plants much resorted to by flies and other small insects; others spread their toils in the corners of windows and rooms, where prey always abounds; while many construct their nets in stables and deserted dwellings, which, at first sight, hold out no great promise of plunder.

But the ambuscade is still incomplete. The Spider seems to be well aware that its grim visage, if not concealed, would scare away the game for which it lies in wait. It therefore constructs a small silken apartment under the net, where it takes its station, unseen, and unsuspected.

THE TARANTULA.

THIS spider is a native of Italy, Cyprus, Barbary, and the East Indies. It makes a hole four inches deep, and half an inch wide, in a field, where it deposits its eggs. It lives but a year. The bite of this poisonous spider produces inflammation, difficulty of breathing, and sickness. Many have believed these effects to be counteracted by the power of music, but this vulgar error is now exploded.

THE WASP.



THIS insect is larger and more slender than the bee; its habits and regulations are nearly the same. It makes a curious nest in the ground, and sometimes in holes of trees. The interior of their habitation is admirable, composed of pillars, galleries, and cells: these are surrounded by a wall, where there are two holes. According to Reaumur, these are the gates of the city, one for ingress, the other for egress. The cells are only used to lodge the young in; bees, flies, and fruit, afford them food during the summer; thousands perish in the winter, and a few only linger in a state of torpidity.

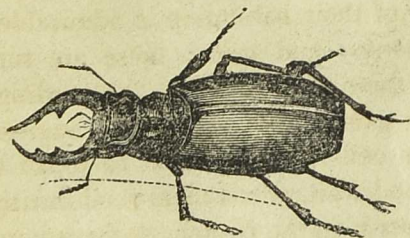
However ferocious these insects appear, they have a very tender attachment for their habitations and young.

THE SCORPION.



THIS creature somewhat resembles a lobster, and in Africa it is found very large and powerful. It is very bold, and ready to attack an enemy; erecting its tail, placing itself in an attitude of defiance, and fighting till it is killed, or till it has driven away its foe. Its bite is sometimes fatal, particularly in some of the African species. From the language of scripture we find that, in the East, these animals have long been the dread of mankind.

THE BEETLE.



THERE are several kinds of Beetles, all of which have two wings enveloped in cases, in order to preserve them when the insect burrows in the ground. The Stag Beetle has

two horns projecting from its head, which pinch very severely. These are sometimes very beautiful, resembling coral.

The Elephant Beetle is found in South America, so called from its proboscis, which is an inch and a quarter long, and terminates in two horns. Its body is four inches long, and is covered with a shell as hard as that of a crab.

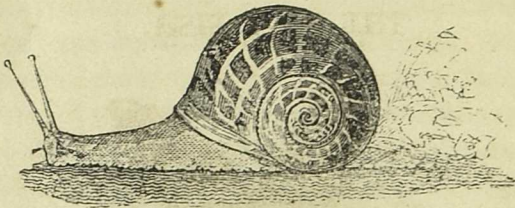
There are some species of the Beetle that are very beautiful, and of various colours.

THE WALKING LEAF.

THIS is a most remarkable insect, and is found in China. Its head is placed on a neck longer than the body itself, and is shaped like an awl, with two polished eyes, and two feelers. The wings are transparent.

This insect is generally of a beautiful green colour, which soon fades, and resembles a dead leaf; this causes the inhabitants to give it the name of the Walking Leaf.

SNAILS.



THESE creatures inhabit shells, and are furnished with four horns, at the ends of which are placed the eyes. The animal can push out or draw back these horns at pleasure. The mouth is armed with teeth, with which it chews leaves and vegetables. It is a curious fact that two of these insects at a certain time of the year station themselves an inch or two apart, and throw at each other little darts of a

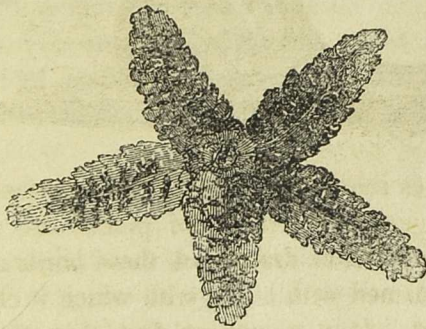
horny substance, and very sharp. After a mutual discharge of these love weapons, they become friends, and lay their eggs, which are about the size of a pea. By the help of a magnifying glass, the young Snail can be seen in the egg with its heavy shell on its back. The shell has at first only one convolution, but the circles increase in number with the growth of the animal; never, however, exceeding four and a half in the Garden Snail.

WORMS.

WORMS form a class by themselves. They are generally divided into five orders. They are distinguished from the caterpillar and magot in undergoing no change, and crawling by means of the annular construction of their bodies. The Earthworm has neither bones, eyes, ears, nor brains, but it has breathing holes, which run along the back.

By perforating and loosening the earth, and thus rendering it pervious to the rain, they essentially benefit the land, though they generally are considered as a nuisance by gardeners, and are destroyed as soon as found.

THE STAR FISH.



THE common species is furnished with five rays and is of a red or yellow colour. The under parts of the body are

covered with thousands of tentacula or feelers, which are frequently retracted, and pushed out again, like the horns of a snail, and by means of which the creature is enabled to adhere to the rocks on which it is found after a storm.

The Star Fish has a slow and progressive motion, and if cut into several pieces it has the property of forming new limbs, and becoming a whole individual.

THE ZOOPHYTES.

THE creatures that rank under this order seem to hold a middle station between animals and vegetables. Most of them, deprived altogether of the power of locomotion, are fixed by stems that take root in crevices of rocks, among sand, or in such other situations as Nature has destined for their abode: these, by degrees, send off branches, till at length some of them attain the size and extent of large shrubs.

CORAL INSECTS.

THE Coral is a hard, stony, branched substance, which is formed at the bottom of the sea by certain minute animals called polypes, that issue from the branches, and are white and soft, each being furnished with eight tentacula or feelers. The general appearance of Coral is that of a shrub destitute of leaves; and its height is usually from three to four feet. It is found in great abundance in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and in the Australasian Seas.

SPONGE.

SPONGE is an animal substance of a soft, light, porous, and elastic nature, which is found adhering to rocks at the bottom of the sea in several parts of the Mediterranean, and particularly near the islands of the Grecian Archipelago. The general uses of sponge, arising from its ready

absorption of fluids, and distension by moisture, are well known, and of great importance. It is collected from rocks, in water five or six fathom deep, chiefly by divers, who, after much practice, become extremely expert in obtaining it.

POLYPES

ARE found in clear waters, and may generally be seen in small ditches and trenches of fields, especially in the months of April and May. They affix themselves to the under parts of leaves, and to the stalks of such vegetables as happen to grow immersed in the same water; and they feed on the various species of small worms, and other aquatic animals that happen to approach.

Two Polypes may occasionally be seen in the act of seizing the same worm at different ends, and dragging it in opposite directions with great force. It sometimes happens that, while one is swallowing its respective end, the other is also employed in the same manner; and thus they continue swallowing each his part until their mouths meet. They then rest for some time in this situation, till the worm breaks between them, and each goes off with his share.

But when the mouths of both are thus joined together upon one common prey, a more singular combat now and then ensues. The largest Polype gapes and swallows his antagonist: but what is extremely wonderful, the animal thus swallowed seems to be the gainer by the misfortune: after it has lain in the conqueror's body for about an hour it issues unhurt, and often in possession of the prey that had been the original cause of contention.

But the most astonishing particular respecting this animal is, that, if a Polype be cut in pieces, it is not destroyed, but is multiplied by dissection: it may be cut in every direction that fancy can suggest, and even into very minute divisions, and not only the parent stock will remain unin-

jured, but every section will become an animal. Even when turned inside out, it suffers no material injury; for, in that state it will soon begin to take food, and to perform all its other natural functions.

I have thus given you an imperfect and partial account of some of the animals which inhabit this vast globe. There are multitudes of others, of which I have no room to make mention. Most of these animals have been arranged into classes by scientific men according to their different formations, habits, and uses. My chief object in this work has been to give you an outline of the history of the animal kingdom, in the hope of exciting your curiosity to know more of this splendid exhibition of the power, wisdom, and goodness of God.







