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HISTORY

OF

DOMESTIC QUADRUPEDS;

INTERSPERSED WITH

ENTERTAINING ANECDOTES:

And

ILLUSTRATED WITH PLATES.

A NEW EDITION.

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Almighty! Thine this universal frame,
Thus wondrous fair! Thyself how wondrous then!

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TO

MISS EMILY PHILLIPS,

A

YOUNG LADY POSSESSED OF MANY AMIABLE QUALITIES,

THIS HISTORY

OF

DOMESTIC ANIMALS,

IS

Respectfully inscribed, as a Proof of his Affection and Esteem;

BY

THE AUTHOR.

June 1, 1808.

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PREFACE.

THE Greek proverb says, that "A great book is a great evil;" and there is a Latin maxim, which tells us, that "Little things become little people." On this principle, the following manual, which, within a small compass, gives a very circumstantial account of the manners, the habits, and the characters, of Domestic Quadrupeds, cannot fail to be agreeable to that class of readers for whom it is intended, namely, children of both sexes.

Natural History possesses irresistible charms, to every person of taste and feeling, from the earliest dawn of reason

to the latest period of human existence. In our language, however, till within these few years, we had no work sufficiently chaste, and, at the same time, sufficiently comprehensive, to be put into the hands of youth. MAVOR'S and BINGLEY'S publications on natural history have supplied a grand desideratum for the use of schools and general readers; but, as both those writers embrace foreign as well as domestic animals, it was impossible that their descriptions should be so ample and satisfactory, as when the subject is restricted to such alone as are indigenous; and, besides, when it is wished to excite attention, objects which daily fall under review are more likely to create an interest than such as are known only from report, and probably may never be seen. The human mind opens by slow degrees; from parts, it rises to the

contemplation of the whole; from having acquired a knowledge of such animals as are endeared by their social habits, their utility, or their beauty, children will gradually be led to extend their views to the animated nature of other countries, till, at last, they are able to comprehend the system of being, and to call every creature by its name.

With general systems of natural history, we pretend not to interfere. Our province is only to pave the way to works of greater labour and expence, and to remove from the eye and the heart, as far as we undertake to be guides to the temple of animated nature, whatever can offend delicacy or corrupt innocence. And if, while we display a small part of the wonderful works of God, we should be fortunate enough to awaken due sentiments of his wisdom, his power, and his good-

ness, in the bosoms of youth; if, while we are describing animals, which Providence, in its bounty, has assigned for our use, our readers should be taught to regard them as valuable servants, not as slaves to their caprice; we shall feel the silent hours, which have been privately applied to this design, as sweet in retrospect, as those in which we have ostensibly and personally come forward as candidates for public favour, and found our claims allowed.

DOMESTIC QUADRUPEDS.

MAN was made to admire the works of God. From the contemplation of such as are most obvious to the senses, we should gradually rise to those that are more remote; while, in every step of our progress, it should be our business to refer to HIM, from whom the universe, with all the wonders it contains, had its being, and by whose power it is supported. Nor will a disposition to studies of this kind be less conducive to our happiness than to our interest. The mind that is stored with a knowledge of nature, will enjoy a constant feast in every situation, and every new accession will be a source of the purest pleasure; while a taste for natural history, by withdrawing the thoughts from frivolous and vicious pursuits, will have a strong tendency to promote our temporal advantage, and at the same time render us wiser and better.

But, though the works of creation are worthy the most serious attention of all ages, it is

in youth that the foundation for such studies is to be laid with the surest effect. The young mind should therefore be taught to distinguish and to discriminate surrounding objects with more than ordinary care, and be led, step by step, from one acquisition to another.

Independent of artificial arrangements, it is proper to remark, that quadrupeds may be divided into such as are tame, and such as are wild. Human Industry has reclaimed the most valuable, and of those the varieties are numerous; while animals which are either incapable of being domesticated, or unworthy of the trouble, preserve their form, colour, and qualities unaltered, and suffer no other variations, except such as arise from food and climate.—The art of man, however, can alter even the native instincts of creatures which he takes under his care; he can render the savage mild, and the sullen sociable; he can teach the harmless the means of annoyance to their kind; and convert one as an engine in his hands to the destruction of another.

We shall now commence our description of domestic quadrupeds, with one of the noblest animals in creation.

THE HORSE.

The Horse is the most beautiful of quadrupeds. The grandeur and elegance of his form, the glossy smoothness of his skin, the graceful ease of his motions, his strength, his activity, and docility, render him one of the principal objects of human curiosity and care, and teach us to consider him as an animal peculiarly interesting. He is the most generous, the most tractable, and yet the most spirited, of all animals; equally adapted for the chase, the draught, and the race; and, while he swells the pomp of luxury, he is no less qualified to be an useful servant to the poor. Except within the polar circles, he is capable of living in any climate; and, though he was not a native of America, he is now diffused over most parts of the known world, with fewer variations than might have been expected. When, however, such a noble quadruped is the subject of our description, slight shades of distinction are to be regarded; and it cannot fail to afford pleasure to our youthful readers, to trace him under every possible aspect, and to find that he is uniformly entitled to our gratitude and humanity.

We justly admire the beauty and the generous qualities of our domestic horses; but to form an adequate idea of the species, we must advert to them in a state of independence.—Several travellers of authenticity mention wild horses in different parts of the world; and we have the testimony of the ancients, that there was once numbers of this description in Europe. It is now, however, chiefly in Asia, Africa, and America, that they are found unreclaimed. Where land is generally appropriated, they must want pastures to range in, and it is only where population is thin, and the means of subsistence easy, that they appear in all their native dignity, and associate together in herds of five or six hundred, without seeking to annoy, and without fearing any attack, from man or beast.

Naturally mild in their disposition, they are satisfied to remain on the defensive, and all their precautions are merely for their security. Whenever they sleep in the forests, one of their number is placed as a centinel to warn his associates of approaching danger; an office which they perform by turns. Should a man approach, even while they are feeding, the centinel boldly advances towards him, as if to examine his strength, or to awe him from proceeding; and if this has not the desired effect, he immediately alarms his fellows by a loud kind of snorting, when the whole herd

take to their heels, and fly with the rapidity of lightning.

These horses, however, of which the greatest number are now found in America, have only become wild since they were introduced into that continent by the Spaniards. They are of the Andalusian breed, about fourteen hands high, clumsy jointed, and having a long neck and ears. When caught by means of nooses, and fasted for a day or two, they soon become tame, and if by any accident they receive their liberty, they never again become wild, but recognize and obey the voice of their masters.

But in Tartary, and particularly in the Ukraine, an aboriginal breed of small wild horses is found, which no art of man can tame. They associate in large droves, are extremely swift, and difficult to be caught; nor are they any otherwise serviceable to mankind than as an article of food. They are frequently hunted, and their flesh is exposed to sale in the markets. That of a foal is said to resemble veal, and that of a full-grown animal has been compared to beef: and if we could get the better of our prejudices, there is every reason to believe, that the flesh of sound and young horses would be sufficiently salutary and nutritious.

In Tartary, indeed, it is not only the flesh of the animal that is valued. The natives of

that country keep immense numbers of tame horses; and from the milk of the mare, they draw a vinous liquor, called koumiss, which constitutes their favourite beverage, and is said to possess many excellent qualities. It is kept in leather bags, and has been highly commended by some Europeans, who have tasted it, as a pleasant kind of drink.

Horses form the principal wealth of the Tartar nations; and, according, to Baron Tott, who was an eye-witness of the fact, there were no fewer than three hundred thousand of these noble animals in the army of the Cham of Tartary. They are subsisted with little difficulty; and if one happens to die, its flesh is eaten, and its hide converted into some article of dress. De Tott informs us, that he once had occasion to see a garment speedily made out of the skin of a dead horse. A young man, naked, received it on his shoulders, as soon as it was fairly separated from the carcass; and a woman, who performed the office of tailor, immediately shaped the skin to fit the different parts of his body, and sewed it about him while it was yet raw: so that the youth, in less than two hours, was new clad in an excellent *brown bay* coat.

About the Cape of Good Hope, there are a considerable number of horses in a state of nature; but they are small, vicious, and untractable. In other parts of Africa, likewise,

they are not unfrequently met with; but the wretched inhabitants of these countries, instead of regarding this noble animal as a useful auxiliary in peace or war, hunt him only for his flesh, which they esteem a peculiar delicacy.

But of all the horses in the world, whether tame or wild, those of Arabia are the most generous, swift, and persevering. When found in a state of nature, the Arabs employ every method to catch them, and if they are likely to recompence their toil and trouble, they are domesticated and reclaimed with the utmost assiduity, and become equally as dear to their masters as their own children. They live in the same tent, they are treated with the greatest kindness, and thus acquire a degree of tractability which is almost incredible.—Their swiftness is tried in hunting the ostrich, the fleetest creature of the desert, and without a spur, they generally outstrip it. So tender, indeed, is the Arab of his horse, that he will seldom beat or spur him; and in consequence of this humane treatment, the animal considers itself as one of the family, and will allow the children to play round it, and to fondle it like a dog.

So strong, indeed, is the attachment that the Arab sometimes forms for his horse, that death alone can separate them. The whole property of a native of the desert consisted of

a beautiful mare, which the French Consul, it is said, wished to purchase for his master, Louis XIV. The Arab, pressed by want, long hesitates, but at length consented to part with her for a very high price, which he named. The Consul receiving authority to close with the terms, immediately informed the owner. The Arab, who had scarcely a rag to cover him, arrived, mounted on his mare. He alighted, and looking first at the gold, and then at his faithful and much-valued servant, heaved a deep sigh. "To whom is it," exclaimed he in an agony, "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!" With these words, he sprang on her back, and was out of sight almost in a moment.

"The horses of the Bedouin Arabs," says Sonnini, "whose lives are spent in traversing the scorching sands, are able, notwithstanding the fervency of the sun, and the suffocating heat of the soil, to travel three days without drinking, and are satisfied with a few handfuls of dried beans, once in twenty-four hours.—From the hardness of their labour, and their fare, they are of course very lean, yet they preserve incomparable vigour and courage."

The Arabian horses are of a middle size,

easy in their motions, and little inclined to fatness, though the symmetry of their form is admirable. This valuable breed has spread itself all over Barbary, and has even extended itself to the western shores of Africa. It has likewise been diffused into Ethiopia, Egypt, and Persia; where the horses preserve the same qualities, and generally receive the same attention. They are all spirited, strong, and fleet; and from the same stock, our racers, which we shall have occasion to mention in the sequel, are chiefly sprung.

The horses of India and China, except those belonging to the grandees, which are of Arabian descent, are of a very indifferent kind.—Indeed, the extremes of heat and cold seem equally inimical to this noble quadruped; and they are found equally to degenerate under the tropics and under the poles.

Next to the Arab, the Spanish genette is generally held in the highest estimation.—These animals are small, but they are extremely fleet and beautiful. They are usually of a black, or dark bay colour, without any white marks. Those of Andalusia are most valued; and it was from this race, that America was first supplied with horses.

The breed of Italian horses has been much neglected, yet there are still some fine animals of the kind in the kingdom of Naples.—They are commonly, however, restive and un-

governable, and are better adapted for draught or parade, than for the purposes of riding or war. The German horses are generally weak and ill-shaped; but, in Hungary, the breed is highly esteemed both for the saddle and war.

No horses are preferable to those of Holland for the draught; and for this purpose they are much valued all over Europe. The Flemish horses are inferior to the former, in form and spirit.

France produces a motley breed of horses, but few that are valuable. The best of that country come from Limosin; and, before the revolution, the French were at a considerable expence in improving the breed, by the introduction of English horses; but it is said that they constantly degenerated; probably owing to want of management, or a more slender kind of diet.

The Danish horses are strong and large, and therefore excellently qualified to draw.—Some of them are not ill-shaped, and they have been successfully applied to various purposes. They are extremely various in their colours, and sometimes they exhibit the most fantastic appearance, being occasionally spotted like a leopard, or streaked like a tiger.

By persevering attention and unlimited expence, English horses are now become superior to those of any other part of the world,

if we combine the various excellent qualities they possess. In this island, indeed, the breed of horses is as mixed as that of its inhabitants. From the frequent introduction of foreign horses, we can boast of a greater variety than any other country; and by a judicious mixture of the several species, by the happy diversity of our soil, and our skilful management, we have brought this valuable animal to the highest degree of perfection. The English race-horse is allowed to excel the Arabian in fleetness, the Barb in perseverance, and the Persian in hardiness. Some of our racers have been known to pass over eighty-two feet and a half in a second of time, or a mile in a minute; and the annals of Newmarket record many heats of four miles, which have been performed in little more than seven minutes. However, this superior degree of swiftness is the property of only a few individuals; yet it may be safely affirmed, that our coursers in general will beat those of any other European country; and no doubt they owe many of their most valuable qualities to the blood of the Barb, or the Arab, which flows in their veins.

The hunter is a happy combination of the racer, with others of superior strength, but inferior fleetness and lineage. This union, in fact, is absolutely necessary; for the fatigues of the chase require the spirit of the one,

as well as the vigour of the other, to support it.

Our common road-horses, again, are a mixture of the hunter with the cart-horse, and no animals shew more strength and perseverance in travelling, if not tried beyond their power. Many of them are capable of carrying a full-sized man from fifty to seventy miles a day, for several days successively, if properly fed, and not too much hurried; but when a long journey is intended, the average rate of travelling should not exceed seven miles an hour. We have instances, however, of an extraordinary degree of fleetness in some well-bred road horses. In the year 1745, the post-master of Stretton rode, on different horses, along the road to and from London, no less than two hundred and fifteen miles in eleven hours and a half, which is more than at the rate of eighteen miles an hour; and, in July, 1788, a horse, belonging to a gentleman in London, was trotted, for a wager, thirty miles in an hour and twenty-five minutes, which exceeds twenty-one miles by the hour. Nor, to the shame of mankind, who use such a generous animal with wanton cruelty, are these solitary instances of the swiftness of our roadsters: every fool and every brute, who happens to have got a good horse, must be betting upon his performance; and scarcely a week passes without some achievement of this

kind being recorded in some one of our provincial papers.

In regard to our draught-horses, they cannot be paralleled in any other country, for strength, size, and activity united. London furnishes horses that are able to draw, on level ground, for a short space, the weight of three tons, and could with ease continue half that load. The pack-horses, in Yorkshire, usually carry a burden of four hundred and twenty pounds, over every inequality of country: while some of our mill-horses, from exercise and habit, have been found equal to a weight of nine hundred pounds and upwards—a burden too great for an ordinary camel.

As for our cavalry, they seem to partake of the martial spirit of their riders: they are irresistible, when properly trained and conducted. Whenever they have had an opportunity of being tried with due effect, the enemy has been broken by the impetuous charge of our squadrons; and we have every reason to conclude, that they will for ever maintain the ancient glory they acquired. So early as the invasion of Cæsar, indeed, the discipline and spirit of the British horse were formidable.—The scythed chariots, driving furiously through the ranks of war, struck the Roman legions with terror. Probably, however, this indigenous breed is lost; or only seen, in a degenerated state, in the small horses of Wales and

Cornwall, the hobbies of Ireland, and the shelties of Scotland: but of this we are certain, that both our light and heavy horse, at present, are superior to what they could possibly have been at that æra. The war-horse is thus happily described by Virgil:—

> The fiery courser, when he hears from far
> The sprightly trumpets and the shouts of war,
> Pricks up his ears, and, trembling with delight,
> Shifts place, and paws, and hopes the promis'd fight.
> On his right shoulder, his thick mane reclin'd,
> Ruffles at speed, and dances in the wind.
> His horny hoofs are jetty, black, and round;
> His chine is double: starting with a bound,
> He turns the turf, and shakes the solid ground.
> Fire from his eyes, clouds from his nostrils flow;
> He bears his rider headlong on the foe.

Under the Anglo-Saxon monarchy, it is evident that English horses must have been an object of consideration among foreigners.—Numbers of them were exported to the continent, and sold at very high prices, notwithstanding a prohibitory law, which, with some variation, has been in force ever since the reign of Athelstan.

In the reign of King Stephen, London alone is said to have contained twenty thousand horses; but, in the time of Elizabeth, the number was so much reduced, that the whole kingdom could not supply two thousand horses for the cavalry. At present, however, the numbers are infinitely greater than

at any former period; for, on a moderate calculation, should the exigencies of the country require it, one hundred thousand horses might be found, adapted, with proper training, for the purposes of war.

We will now advert to some farther particulars relative to the natural history of the horse; for a volume might easily be written on this fertile subject.

According to the degree of cultivation bestowed on them, horses either improve or degenerate in form and size; but sagacity and docility are qualities inherent in them, under every change of circumstances.

Though possessed of strength that might set them above human controul, they seldom exert it to the prejudice of their masters; on the contrary, they endure the greatest fatigue with patient resignation. They have benevolent dispositions, and seem to take a pleasure in the pursuits of their owners. The hunter is delighted with the chase, and the war-horse is inspired with the spirit of his rider. The writer of this has a horse that, after having been trained for some time in a troop of volunteer cavalry, was so fond of the exercise, that, no sooner were his accoutrements put on, than he was ready to rush out of the stable, and to follow the sound of the trumpet; but when saddled for riding, he was merely passive.

But though the horse evidently receives satisfaction from pleasing and being useful, he is not unconscious of injury and injustice.—He knows his benefactor, and his enemy, and will sometimes show his sense of both by certain demonstrations. Dennis Rolle, Esq. the father of the present Lord Rolle, informs us—"that a baronet, one of whose hunters had never tired in the longest chase, once encouraged the cruel thought of attempting completely to fatigue him. After a long chase, therefore, he dined, and, again mounting, rode him furiously among the hills. When brought back to the stable, his strength appeared exhausted, and he was scarcely able to walk. The groom, possessed of more feeling than his brutal master, could not refrain from tears, at the sight of such a noble animal thus sunk down. The master, some time after, entered the stable, when the horse made a furious spring upon him, and, had not the groom interfered, would certainly have dispatched him."

Were a few more examples of this kind to take place, it would teach the unfeeling to treat a valuable servant with kindness, and not wantonly to exact what is willingly paid. But it is not only in demanding more than he is able to perform, that a horse is ill used; docking, nicking, cropping, and applying red hot shoes to his feet, are barbarities to which

there is no temptation, and for which no justification can be made.

A horse, if well managed, will live forty or fifty years. One belonging to a field-officer, in 1715, at the time of the rebellion in Scotland, died only in the year 1760; and we might produce similar instances of longevity, though the general period of a horse's life is between twenty and twenty-five years.

The mare goes eleven months and some days with young: she suckles her foal with fondness, and defends it from injury with a mild but firm resolution*.

The horse is subject to various diseases, but these more frequently arise from ill treatment than from nature. Fortunately, his cure is now taken out of the hands of ignorant farriers, and assigned to men who have studied his anatomy and his constitution.

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* For various interesting views of the horse, his qualities, and history, we beg leave to refer our juvenile readers to "Memoirs of Dick, the Little Poney, supposed to be written by Himself."

THE ASS.

THAT neglected and degraded quadruped, the Ass, whose very name is used as a term of reproach, has, as is well known, long slouching ears, a short mane, and a tail covered with long hairs at the end. The body is usually of an ash colour, with a black list down the back, and a black bar over the shoulders, forming the figure of a cross.

In his external appearance, and the structure of his bones, the ass bears a strong resemblance to the horse; but the species are perfectly distinct, and nature has drawn an inseparable line between them, by rendering their mixed produce barren.

The ass is found wild in the mountainous deserts of Tartary, the southern parts of India and Persia, and in some parts of Africa. In a state of nature, it is a large, lively, and beautiful animal, compared with the same species when domesticated. When pursued, it will frequently outstrip the fleetest courser, and is more commonly taken by artifice than by force or swiftness. It is hunted both for its flesh and its skin; the former is esteemed very delicious food, by several nations; and of

the latter, shagreen is manufactured. The part of the hide chiefly used for this purpose grows about the rump, but the granulation it receives is artificial. In Persia, this manufacture is considered as of some importance; and indeed every part of the skin of the ass may be applied to various useful purposes, such as leaves of pocket-books, drums, and shoes.

The Persians so highly esteem the flesh of this quadruped, that its delicacy is even become proverbial among them. The wild animal is said, by those who have tasted it, to be sufficiently savoury; but the flesh of the tame ass is more dry, tough, and disagreeable, than even that of the horse, and, in Europe at least, is seldom used as an article of food.

Wild asses live in separate herds, each consisting of a chief, with several females and colts. A male always takes upon him the guardianship of the society, and watches with the greatest attention. If a hunter approaches, the centinel makes a circuit round him, as if to reconnoitre; and, if he sees cause to apprehend danger, he flies off with impetuosity, and is followed by the whole herd.

The sense of hearing and smelling, in wild asses, is so exquisite, that it is with the utmost difficulty they can be approached; and when they are caught in pit-falls, it requires much labour to tame them, and to render them fit for domestic purposes. They prefer the salt-

est plants of the deserts, and, next to them, they seem attached to vegetables which yield a bitter milky juice. The hunters generally lie in wait for them near the ponds of brackish water, to which these animals resort to drink.

Before the discovery of America, the ass seems to have been entirely unknown on that continent. That country, however, appears to be peculiarly favourable for their propagation; for where they have been permitted to run wild, they have multiplied so quick, that, in many places, they have become a nuisance. In the kingdom of Quito, the proprietors of the land suffer any person to carry off as many as he can seize, on paying a small consideration, in proportion to the number of days the hunting, or rather snaring, is continued.

On these occasions, the following method is commonly adopted. A number of planters, on horseback, attended by Indians, on foot, proceed to the proper place. When they have fixed on the spot of operation, they form a circle, in order to drive the asses into some valley, where, at full speed, they throw a noose, and endeavour to halter them. The animals, finding themselves surrounded, make very furious efforts to escape; and if only one can force his way, the rest follow with irresistible impetuosity. When noosed, however,

A Goat

An Ass

the hunters throw them down, and secure them, till the chase is over. Then, in order to bring them away with more facility, they generally couple the captives with tame asses; but this is performed with great difficulty, and they frequently wound the persons who undertake to manage them. After carrying the first load, however, their spirit seems broken, and they contract that passive disposition and dull aspect which is so peculiar to the asinine species.

It is remarkable, that, in their native pastures, they will not suffer a horse to appear within their limits. Should he happen only to stray where they graze, the whole herd fall upon him, and, without allowing him the option of flying, they bite and kick him till he is left dead on the field.

Thus it is obvious, that the ass is naturally swift, fierce, and formidable; but, when tamed, he presents a very different picture.—The moment its original liberty is lost, it seems to relinquish every claim to independence, and assumes a meakness and submission even humbler than its servile situation. It is the most patient of all domestic quadrupeds, and suffers with constancy, if not with courage, all the ill-treatment which cruelty and caprice undeservedly inflict. It is extremely temperate, as well with regard to the quantity as the quality of its provisions, being satisfied

with the most neglected weeds, and making its humble repast on what the horse, the cow, and the sheep, refuse. It will eat thistles and briers, and if it shews a predilection for any vegetable, it is for plantane. But, though indifferent about food, it is peculiarly delicate in its drink, tasting only of the clearest stream. It seems afraid of wetting its feet, and, even when loaded, will turn aside to avoid the dirty parts of the road: it never rolls in the mud, and is naturally a cleanly animal.

When young, the ass possesses a great degree of sprightliness and beauty; but it soon loses those agreeable qualities, and becomes slow, stupid, and frequently obstinate. Its only ardour, which is extreme, is shewn for its mate: in other respects, it is rather the passive instrument of our will, than the architect of its own destiny. Yet it shews a partiality for its owner, by whom it is too often abused: it scents him at a considerable distance, distinguishes him from others in a crowd, and seems to know the roads he has passed, and the place where he sojourns. When overloaded, it shows its sense of injury, by hanging down its head and flapping its ears; and, when too hard pressed, it opens its mouth, and draws back its lips with a ghastly grin. If blinded, it will remain motionless, however easy it might be to remove the impediments

that hinder its sight. It walks, trots, and gallops, like a horse; but, though it sets out very freely, it is soon tired, and requires to be managed with some address, to make it proceed. Ill usage only confirms its obstinacy; neither the whip nor the cudgel can make it move, when it has once become sullen: but this does not arise from any defect in its constitution and temper, for it is capable of being trained with the same facility as some other quadrupeds; and several animals of this kind have been rendered sufficiently sagacious and active to be exhibited as public spectacles.—Pennant relates, that he was much diverted at seeing a public combat between an ass and a dog, in Paris. The dog attempted in vain to seize the ass, while the latter sometimes caught the former in its mouth, and sometimes flung him under its knees and pressed him, till at last he was forced to yield.

It is the misfortune of this quadruped, that his value is overlooked in the superior qualities of the horse, and that, in this country more especially, he falls to the lot of the lowest rustics and the most barbarous jobbers. When he has the happiness to meet with a humane master, he well repays his kindness.

An old man, who used to retail vegetables round the streets of London, made use of an ass to carry the baskets, containing the commodities in which he dealt. Considering the

animal as an useful partner in his toils, he frequently gave it a handful of hay, a piece of bread, or some unsaleable greens, by way of reward and refreshment. In consequence of this, he became so docile, that his master had no occasion to goad him on; he advanced and stopped at a word. This being noticed by a gentleman, the old man was asked, if his ass was always so tractable, and if he was not apt to be stubborn? "Ah, master," said he, "it is of no use to be cruel; and, as for stubbornness, I have little reason to complain, for he is ready to do any thing, and to 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 to stop him, but in vain; when, on looking back and seeing me, he ran up, and kindly placed his head in my bosom."

In a variety of situations, indeed, and under numerous circumstances, the ass might be rendered of essential use to us, were we at any pains to improve the breed. He is not only more hardy than the horse, but subject to fewer diseases. He may be kept at a tenth part of the expence, and is capable of being used with advantage where a horse could not tread.

The manner in which asses descend the precipices of the Alps, or the Andes, deserves

to be noticed, while we are recording the history of this animal. In the passes of those mountains, there are often on one side steep eminences, and on the other frightful abysses; and, as these generally follow the direction of the mountain, the road forms at every little interval, steep declivities of several hundred yards. These can only be descended by asses, and the animals themselves seem sensible of their danger, by the caution they use. When they come to the edge of one of these descents, they naturally stop, and no force can make them proceed. They seem to contemplate the danger that lies before them, and to prepare themselves for the encounter.—At last, having formed their plan, they place their fore feet in a posture, as if they were stopping themselves; next, they put their hind feet close, but a little forward, as if they were to lie down. In this attitude, they slide down with the rapidity of an arrow, while the rider has only to keep his seat on the saddle, without checking the rein, or in the least disturbing the equilibrium of his beast, which would be fatal to both.

Such is their address in these rapid and dangerous descents, that they follow exactly the different windings of the road, as if they had previously settled in their minds the route they were to take. Some asses, after being long used to these journeys, acquire a con-

siderable share of reputation and skill, and, in consequence, their value is greatly enhanced.

The Spaniards seem to pay more regard to this animal than any other European nation. The asses of that country are large, strong, elegant, and stately, frequently reaching nearly fifteen hands in height, and fetching the price of one hundred guineas and upwards.—Several of our nobility have contrived to import a Spanish he-ass, and by such means have raised an excellent breed of mules. At Blenheim some very beautiful animals of this kind may be seen; while their size, compared with other animals of the kind that are seen grazing round them, is noble and attractive.

The ass seems originally to have been a native of Arabia and other parts of the East; and warm climates still produce the largest and the best. In some of the oriental countries, they are not degraded as with us to the service of the poor, but they are used by persons of rank and fortune, for pleasure and for journeys. Egypt has a very excellent breed, much superior to that of Spain. In the principal streets of Cairo, asses stand ready bridled and saddled for hire, and answer the purpose of our hackney-coaches. The owner accompanies his ass, goads him on, and calls out to foot passengers to make way. These animals are regulary curried and washed,

which renders their coat smooth, soft, and glossy. Their natural pace is a canter or gallop; and without fatiguing his rider, the ass will carry him rapidly over the large plains, which lie between the different parts of this straggling city.

The emigration of the ass, from the warm climates of the East, has been very slow; and though it is now naturalized in the British islands, and is found in every part of them, except perhaps the north of Scotland, the breed seems to have been extinct in the reign of Elizabeth. Holingshed informs us, that, in his time, "our lande did yeelde no asses." We are not, however, to suppose that they were unknown in this country till after that period; for mention is made of them so early as the reign of Ethelred, and again in the reign of Henry III.

In Sweden, the ass is still considered as a curiosity; nor does it appear that it has yet reached Norway. Indeed, as has been already remarked, it arrives at the greatest perfection in hot climates, and is only partially known in the cold.

In England, both the soil and temperature are excellently adapted for its nature, but the horse almost universally supersedes it; and it is probable, that the whole race would have again become extinct, had not the medicinal qualities of its milk tempted the avarice of

mankind to suffer it to live. This salutary liquid, in several cases, is esteemed the most sovereign, as well the most innocent, of all prescriptions. It is very nourishing and abstergent; and, from the difficulty with which it curdles, it sits easy on the weakest stomach. Asses milk is frequently prescribed in hectic complaints, in internal abscesses, and all cases of debility. When topically applied, it renders the gums firm, alleviates the anguish of the gout, and gives the face a pleasing whiteness. The ass attains its full growth at four or five years of age, and commonly lives to between twenty and twenty-five. We have sufficient authority, however, for saying, that it sometimes reaches upwards of forty years, as an ass, which had been employed to draw up the water from a well in Carisbrook Castle, was known to have been daily used for that purpose for the period we have mentioned, and it was probably four or five years old before it began its labour.

The she-ass brings forth in the twelfth month. In defence of her young, she displays the most determined resolution; and neither danger nor difficulty will deter her from discharging her maternal duty. The ass sleeps very little, and never lies down, except when completely exhausted: in short, it is one of the most persevering and economical of quadrupeds, and deserves a better fate than it generally experiences.

THE MULE.

THE Mule is a mongrel kind of animal, usually generated between an ass and a mare, and sometimes between a horse and a she ass. Those of the first lineage are most esteemed; yet, in either case, the form and qualities of the ass predominate.

The mule is a powerful and useful animal, extremely sure-footed, and therefore well adapted for mountainous and stony countries. It will live upwards of thirty years, and seems exempted from many diseases incident to both its parents; but, by an unerring rule of nature, it is marked with certain sterility, in order to prevent those monstrous productions which a mixture of different animals would give rise to. Indeed, the barrier is generally preserved pure and distinct between different species, and the instances are few in which it is overstepped; but when, as in the present case, there is a deviation from the established course, it can go no farther than one generation, and nature returns to her former channel, or knows the limits which she cannot pass.

THE OX.

In the common acceptation of the term, Ox, it denotes black cattle in general, without regard to sex.

The most obvious characteristics of this genus of quadrupeds are, that the horns bend out laterally, and that the skin along the lower side of the neck is pendulous. The colours of the ox kind are extremely various; they are reddish, black, white, grey, dun, and spotted. The face is often white, and the rest of the body of a different colour; in a word, like all animals which have been long under the care of man, and whose breed has frequently been mixed, both the form and colour vary without end. Virgil thus describes the cow which was most esteemed in his days:—

The mother cow must wear a low'ring look,
Sour headed, strongly neck'd, to bear the yoke.
Her double dewlap from her chin descends,
And at her thighs the pond'rous burden ends.
Long are her sides, and large; her limbs are great;
Rough are her ears, and broad her horny feet;
Her colour shining black, but fleck'd with white;
She tosses from the yoke, provokes the fight:

She rises in her gait, is free from fears,
And in her face a bull's resemblance bears:
Her ample forehead with a star is crown'd;
And with her length of tail she sweeps the ground.

Of all ruminating animals, or those that chew the cud, the cow holds the first rank, both in beauty and general utility. She is more particularly the poor man's blessing, and equally constitutes his riches and support.—Her milk is the most proper nourishment for his children; the butter she produces yields him assistance in finding other necessaries; and, if he cannot afford to eat her flesh when dead, she contributes very much to his comfort when living.

Animals of the cow kind are patient and peaceable, of a middle character, between stupidity and docility; they are affectionate to their young, and even capable of some degree of attachment to those who use them kindly. Bulls, indeed, are sometimes so ferocious, as to attack and gore without provocation; but it is seldom that the cow and the bullock molest any one. The natural character of all ruminating animals is evidently mild and pacific: they are destitute of tusks and claws; and, though their horns are formidable weapons of defence, they are not often used.

These animals are in their greatest vigour between the age of three and nine years.—After the latter period, the teeth begin to grow

black and irregular, and consequently the food is chewed with more difficulty. Thus, in the midst of plenty, the cow will decline, from this single cause, and, gradually becoming emaciated, at length would expire, were it not rare that she is allowed to reach the extreme bounds of life.

The teeth and horns, indeed, indicate the age of this quadruped: the latter, however, furnish the most certain criterion. At three years of age the horns fall off, and are supplied by a permanent set, which every year afterwards lengthen, and acquire a new ring at their bases; so that, by adding three years to the number of those annulations, the age may be exactly ascertained.

The English breed of cows has been so greatly improved by a foreign mixture, that we cannot, with any degree of certainty, point out the original stock in these islands.—Those that may be supposed to have been purely British, are much smaller than the black cattle in the northern parts of the continent of Europe. The Highlands of Scotland furnish a small breed, many of which, the males as well as the females, are destitute of horns. The Welch cattle and those of Cornwall are of a larger size, and are evidently a distinct variety. Those of Lincolnshire, which grow to a great size, appear to have been introduced from Holstein; and the large hornless cattle, which

London, Published by Tabart & Co. Aug.1.1804.

are bred in some of the English counties, originally came from Poland. The Leicestershire breed, which owes so much to the skill and attention of Mr. Bakewell, is deservedly esteemed.

Not three centuries ago, Scotland contained a wild race of cattle of a pure white colour, which, if we may believe Boethius, had manes like lions. Mr. Pennant says, he cannot but give credit to the relation, having seen, in the parks of Drumlanrig, in Scotland, and of Chillingham, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, herds of cattle, which were probably derived from this savage breed. They had lost their manes, but retained their colour and fierceness. It appears, however, that this curious race is now extinct in Scotland; but, in the Earl of Tankerville's park, at Chillingham, some of them are still to be found. Their colour is invariably white, with the muzzle black, and the whole inside of the ear and about one-third part of the outside, from the tip downwards, red.—Their horns are white, with black tips, very fine, and bent downwards. Oxen of this breed will weigh, on an average, fifty stone, of fourteen pounds each; and cows, about thirty stone.

On the approach of a stranger, they set off in full gallop, and, at the distance of two or three hundred yards, wheel round, and boldly advance, as if to reconnoitre the object of

their surprise. On the least motion, however, they again gallop off, but not to the same distance, and return in a more menacing style than before. This they do repeatedly, till they come within a few yards of the intruder, who generally thinks it prudent not to provoke them any farther.

Formerly these animals were hunted with great pomp, and not without some danger; but now the park-keeper shoots them, when wanted, with a rifle gun. When any of them happens to be wounded, or is grown weak and feeble through age or sickness, the rest of the herd set upon and gore it to death.

Frequent mention is made of the savage nature of our wild cattle, by old writers. In chasing an animal of this kind, we are told that King Robert Bruce was saved from its fury by the intrepidity of one of his courtiers, from which exploit he and his lineage acquired the name of Turnbull. Fitz-Stephen, in his history of London, mentions these animals as being found in a forest, which, in his time, lay adjacent to London.

In short, in almost every part of the world, some variety of the cow is to be found, either in a wild or a domestic state; and no animal is more subject to variations from food and climate. Among the Eluth Tartars, where the pastures are remarkably rich and nourishing, the cow grows to such an amazing size,

that a tall man can scarcely touch the tip of its shoulder. In other countries again, where grass is scanty, it dwindles to the smallest dimensions. The variations in size, however, are less remarkable than in form; and hence some naturalists have considered that as a species, which was only a strongly-marked variety. Thus the wild cow and the tame, the animal peculiar to Europe, and that to Asia, Africa, and America; the bonasus, the urus, the bison, and the zebu, notwithstanding the diversity of their appearance, are all one and the same; they generate with each other, and, in the course of a few generations, the original distinctions become lost.

Of all animals, therefore, man alone excepted, the cow is most extensively diffused. It appears equally adapted to endure the extremes of heat and cold; it inhabits the frozen fields of Iceland as well as the burning deserts of Lybia; and is one of the greatest blessings of Providence to the human race.—In India, indeed, it is the object of peculiar veneration. The Gentoos duly appreciate its utility, and their gratitude leads them to a species of idolatry, which, as it arises from a good principle, is as much to be pitied as condemned.

In this country, the ox is the only horned animal which applies its strength for the service of mankind; and it would be extremely

conducive to the interest of the community, as well as of individuals, if this quadruped were more frequently employed. Certain it is, that, in many cases, oxen would perform the duty of horses with full effect; while it should be taken into the account, that their subsistence is much cheaper, that they are less obnoxious to diseases, and, that when age puts a period to their labour, their flesh is still equally valuable as when young. On the contrary, the value of a horse is constantly diminishing, after he has past his prime; and, at last, he is reduced to the trivial worth of his skin.

But it is not merely for their labour that black cattle are to be prized. Every part of them may be applied to some beneficial purpose; and each has its particular use. Boots, shoes, and other conveniences of life, are produced from its hide. Vellum is made of calf's skin, and gold-beater's skin is formed either of a thin vellum, or the finer parts of the intestines of the ox. The hair mixed with lime is a very necessary ingredient in mortar, and it is also used in various manufactures.—Of the horns, are made combs, plates for lanterns, said to have been the invention of King Alfred, handles of knives, boxes, cups, and various other useful articles. Carpenter's glue is manufactured from the chips of the hoofs and the parings of the raw hides.—

The bones are used as a substitute for ivory; and from the feet is procured an oil, which answers many useful purposes. The blood is said to be an excellent manure for fruit-trees, and forms the basis of Prussian blue. Our artificial light is, in a great measure, derived from the fat and suet of this animal. The gall, liver, and spleen, have likewise their respective uses; and, as for milk, which the cow yields in such abundance, and from which butter and cheese are made, its value is so great and so obvious, that it would be an insult to the weakest understanding to expatiate on this subject.

The cow goes nine months with young, and shews much natural solicitude for her calf; but it is seldom that she enjoys the satisfaction of bestowing all her milky treasures upon it, or of being allowed to rear it to that age in which it would be capable of providing for itself.

The breath of the cow is exquisitely sweet; and she is one of the most interesting objects in a farm-yard, particularly when yielding her milk at the pail.

THE SHEEP.

This genus is characterized by horns, twisted spirally, hollow, and pointing backwards, and by its having eight cutting teeth in the lower, and nine in the upper jaw. The first character, however, does not belong to all the varieties of this animal, as several of them are without horns.

The sheep kind are very generally diffused, and perhaps of all domestic animals none are so extensively beneficial to mankind. Others may excel in strength, docility, and dignity of character; but the sheep supplies us both with food and clothing, and therefore is indispensable to our comforts, and almost to our existence.

Of all quadrupeds, the sheep, in their present domestic state, are the most innocent and defenceless. Long accustomed to depend on man for support, they appear to resign themselves to his will, and to have few instincts, except what are necessary for the preservation and continuance of the race. They tremble at the voice of the shepherd or his dog, and, contrary to the characters of the horse and the cow, are more awed by the latter than the

former. But nature is not to be blamed for being niggardly of her gifts to this animal.—The moufflon, which is a sheep in the wild and original state, is at once intrepid and fleet. It can escape by its swiftness, from the most powerful of its enemies; and, to the weaker, it can oppose with effect, the arms which nature has given it. Surrounded with dangers, and alarmed with unceasing hostilities, these animals spend a considerable part of their lives in attempting to elude their foes; and, by such exercise, they acquire a degree of fleetness, of activity and address, which is never witnessed in the passive creatures which have all their wants supplied, and are protected from annoyance, by human care.

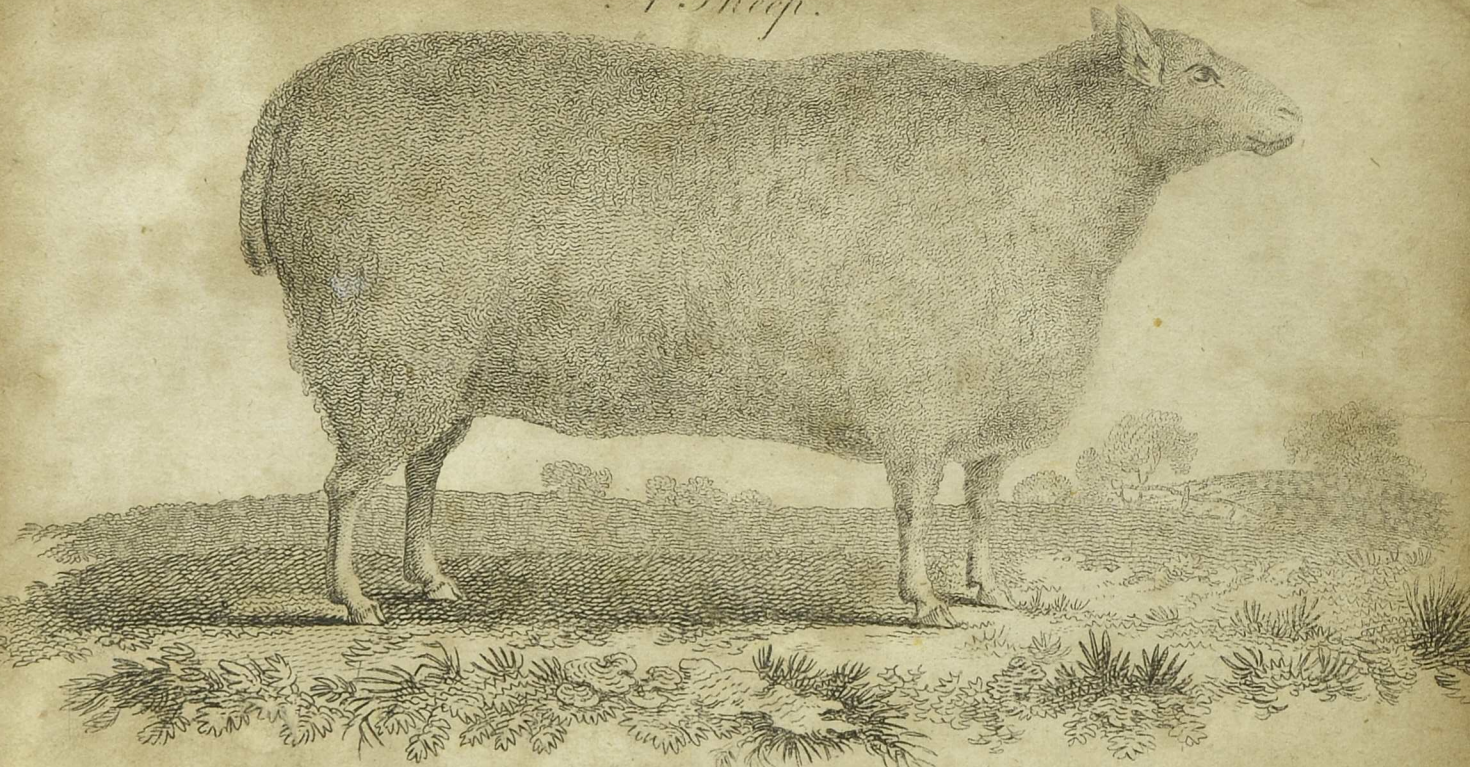
Even on the extensive mountains where sheep range almost without controul, and where they seldom depend on the aid of the shepherd, they exhibit a very different conduct from such as are daily tended and penned. In these situations, a ram or a wedder will boldly attack a single dog, and often come off victorious. But, when the danger is alarming, like man, they have recourse to the collected strength of the whole flock.—On such occasions, they draw up in martial array, with no small share of judgment, placing the females and the young in the centre, while the males occupy the foremost ranks, keeping in close battalion. Thus an

armed front is presented on all quarters; nor can the assailant provoke the combat, without the danger of destruction. In this posture, they wait the approach of the enemy with firmness; nor does their courage fail when the attack commences; for, when the aggressor advances within a few yards of the line, the rams dart upon him with such impetuosity, as to lay him dead at their feet, unless he is prudent enough to save himself by flight. Neither single dogs nor single foxes can prevail against a flock, when thus embattled. An individual ram, indeed, will often engage a bull; and, owing to the hardness of his forehead, and the opportunity he has of pushing between the wide horns of his antagonist, he seldom fails to conquer.

In the mountainous parts of Wales, where sheep necessarily enjoy a great share of liberty and independence, they associate in small parties of about a dozen, and always place one of their number as a sentinel, to warn them of danger. Before any person can approach, the sentinel is on the alert, watches his motions, and, if he suspects annoyance, he immediately alarms his comrades by a loud hiss or whistle, several times repeated, when the whole party scour away with great agility, and seek shelter in the most inaccessible parts of the mountains.

Indeed, our domestic sheep are not so stu-

A Sheep.



London, Publish'd by Tabart & Co. Aug.st 11-1804.

pid and degenerated as some naturalists have represented them. They still continue to be social; the flock follows the ram, as their leader, and he generally exerts himself with courage and effect in their defence against strange dogs, or other hostile animals. The mutual affection which subsists between the ewe and her progeny, is as strongly marked as in other quadrupeds. She suckles it with fondness; and, though she is not able to protect it against an enemy of superior power and address, she does not tamely abandon it to danger, or speedily forget it. It is remarkable, that a ewe will distinguish her lamb among hundreds, where we, perhaps, could not perceive the least difference, and, for some time at least, will resist the advances of the young of another, and at last yields only, when she despairs of recovering her own.

A lamb, separated from the flock, and brought up by the hand, often displays considerable docility and attachment. Admitted to a degree of intimacy with mankind, it will sometimes play several frolics, and butt against its benefactors; but the general inoffensiveness of its manners recommends it so strongly to human affection, that it is usually a particular favourite with infancy and youth.

The ewe goes about five months with

young, and, with proper management, may be made to yean at any season of the year.—She produces one, two, and, occasionally, three at a birth; but seldom more than once within the year.

It is observable of sheep, that they drink very little. For this reason, they will thrive on the mountains and upland downs, where water is scarcely within their reach; and, indeed, they seem to delight in dry situations, which equally contribute to the flavour of their flesh, and the fineness of their wool.—They are subject to various diseases; but, should they escape both these or violence, the duration of their life is seldom beyond twelve or thirteen years.

Pastoral descriptions, have, from the earliest ages, delighted the heart of man. The shepherd and his pipe recal ideas of innocence and simplicity, on which we are pleased to indulge; but, in this country, fiction supplies the place of reality. In many parts of the Alps, however, and even in some of the provinces of France, the flock is penned every evening, to preserve them from the attacks of wolves; and, at sun-set, the shepherd begins playing on his pipe, while the flock follows him, apparently charmed with the sound.—Thus, some traces of Arcadian life still exist: the shepherd there is the owner of the flock, and he enjoys, with more than mercenary

feelings, their welfare and security, while they seem to participate in his delight.

It does not appear that the breed of sheep was cultivated among the ancient Britons.—The inhabitants of the interior parts of this island were entirely naked, or clothed only with skins. In process of time, however, their intercourse with the more civilized inhabitants of the continent, taught them the use of woollen garments; but it was long before they knew how to manufacture them; though the woollen manufacture has now, for ages, been a principal source of the riches of England. Henry II. actuated by true policy, forbade the use of any other except English wool, in the making of cloth; but, notwithstanding this injunction, the weaving business proceeded so slowly, that Edward III. was obliged to permit the importation of foreign cloth, at the commencement of his reign.—But, by encouraging foreign artificers to settle in England, and instruct the natives in their trade, he was, in the sequel, enabled to recal his permission.

Many salutary laws passed at succeeding intervals, operated, by degrees, to the establishment of this valuable trade in England.—But the full dawn of its prosperity is to be dated from the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the tyranny of the Duke of Alva, in the

Netherlands, drove many of the artificers into this country, and who well repaid the protection they received, by founding that immense manufacture we now carry on, and in which we are unrivalled, both in the fineness and durability of our fabrics.

Indeed, no country on earth is so well supplied with every sort of materials necessary in the clothing business, as Britain; and, though the sheep of this island have not uniformly fine fleeces, they are all serviceable in some particular branches of the manufacture. The counties of Hereford and Devon, and the Cotswold Hills, are celebrated for producing fleeces of an excellent quality. Lincolnshire and Warwickshire breed very large sheep, whose fleeces excel, both in quantity and quality. The fleeces of the northern parts of the kingdom are, in general, inferior to those of the south. In Yorkshire, where the clothing manufacture is extremely flourishing, much wool is produced, which, mixed with that imported from Spain, is used in some of their finest fabrics.

Wales produces a coarse wool, which, however, is well adapted for flannels, the prevailing manufacture of the country.

In Scotland, the breed of sheep, as well as their fleeces, vary. In Shetland, the Isles, and some parts of the Highlands, the animals are small, but their fleeces are peculiarly fine;

and, by the indefatigable attention of Sir John Sinclair, the founder of the Agricultural Society, and other patriotic gentlemen, so many new lights have been thrown on the breeding of sheep, and the improving of their fleeces, that, in process of time, the greatest benefit must infallibly result to individuals and the public.

Sheep-shearing is always a season of festivity and joy. It usually takes place early in June; and premiums and public meetings have lately signalized it. Thomson thus beautifully describes the process of washing and shearing:—

Urg'd to the giddy brink, much is the toil,
The clamour much, of men, and boys, and dogs,
Ere the soft, fearful people, to the flood
Commit their woolly sides.
..... Then, as they spread
Their swelling treasures to the sunny ray,
Inly disturb'd, and wond'ring what this wild
Outrageous tumult means, their loud complaints
The country fill; and, toss'd from rock to rock,
Incessant bleatings run around the hills.
At last, of snowy white, the gather'd flocks
Are in the wattled pen innumerous press'd,
Head above head, and, rang'd, in lusty rows,
The shepherds sit, and whet the sounding shears.
Behold, where bound, and of its robe bereft,
By needy man, that all-dependent lord,
How meek, how patient, the mild creature lies!
What softness in his melancholy face!
What dumb complaining innocence appears!

Woolly sheep, however, are only found in Europe and some of the temperate provinces of Asia. When transported into warmer countries, their wool degenerates into hair; and, in extreme cold climates, they suffer an equal change.

Few parts of the sheep are useless in human economy. The fleece supplies us with clothes, and the flesh is one of the most wholesome and delicate kinds of food.—Gloves are made of the skin, as well as parchment, and the covers of books. The entrails are formed into strings for various kinds of musical instruments. The milk, though much less in quantity and repute, is thicker, and, consequently, richer than that of a cow. The bones, when calcined, are ased as tests, by the refiners; and even the dung proves such a valuable manure, that folding of sheep on turnip lands is one of the greatest improvements which modern times have made in the science of agriculture.

THE GOAT.

ANIMALS of the Goat kind are distinguished from sheep, not only by their covering, which we have seen varies with climate, but also by their horns, which are hollow, annulated, and gently inclining backwards. They seem to prefer retired mountainous situations, and have a rank smell, particularly the males, which always are honoured with beards.

The common domestic goat is found in most parts of the world; being able to endure, without inconvenience, the extremes both of heat and cold. But its value is overlooked, because the sheep so far exceeds it in utility to man—just as the ass is of little consequence, because it is superseded by the horse.

Viewed, however, in every possible light, the goat seems better adapted for the independent life it enjoys than the sheep. It is naturally more lively, and possesses more animal instinct: it more readily attaches itself to man, and appears sensible of his caresses: it is also stronger, swifter, more courageous, more playful, more capricious, and more vagrant, than the sheep. Though not averse to so-

ciety, it is with difficulty confined to a flock: it loves to stray from its companions, and to chuse its own pastures. It delights in climbing the ridges of houses and precipices, and never seems so happy as when, to our apprehension, it is on the very verge of destruction. Nature, indeed, has in some measure fitted this animal for traversing declivities with security: its hoofs are hollow underneath, and their edges are sharp, which render its footing secure on the steepest ridges. When two of them are yoked together, they will take the most hazardous leaps with such perfect uniformity, that they seldom miscarry, or disappoint each other.

As goats are hardy, and easily sustained, they generally fall to the lot of the poor, who have no pastures to support more delicate animals. They prefer the neglected wilds to cultivated fields: the heathy mountain, the shrubby rock, the tops of boughs, or the bark of trees, furnish their favourite food. They are equally regardless of heat and cold, storms or calm weather; and, under every external circumstance, preserve the vivacity of their disposition, and spend their time in capricious frolics.

The goat is common in the mountainous parts of Wales and Scotland. The former are greatly superior in size to the latter, and are commonly of a white colour. Notwith-

standing the cold of Norway and Iceland, they are sufficiently abundant in those countries, and vast numbers of their skins are annually exported from Bergen.

The smell of the goat is esteemed salutary in nervous and hysterical diseases; and they are frequently kept in stables, as an antidote against infection. The negroes in Guinea, where goats are very frequent, entertain the odd notion, that their rank smell was given them as a punishment, for having requested of a certain female divinity, that they might be permitted to anoint themselves with a certain aromatic ointment which she used herself.—Offended at their arrogant vanity, they say, she took a box of the most nauseous compound, and rubbed their body with it, which has left an odour that could never be removed from their posterity.

The female goat produces two or three at a time: she goes with young five months, and frequently breeds twice a year.

The milk of the she goat is sweet and restorative, and well adapted to stomachs whose digestive powers are weakened. It is not liable to coagulate, like that of the cow; and, from the peculiarity of the animal's food, it has a flavour which is grateful to most palates. Goat's whey, as it is called, is frequently drank, in the Highlands of Scotland, by persons resorting to that country on pur-

pose; and it is often found more salutary than any medicine.

In several parts, indeed, both of Ireland and Scotland, goats constitute the principal wealth of the poor natives. Their beds are made with their skins; their milk furnishes a simple aliment, besides what is converted into butter and cheese; and their flesh, when they can afford to eat it, particularly that of the kid, is a delicacy fit for an epicure.

Thus, even in the wildest solitudes, Providence has dispensed its blessings and its comforts. In those mountainous retreats, where the landscape presents only a scene of rocks, heath, and desolation, the simple inhabitants have their herds of goats, which furnish their feasts and enjoyments. These animals require but little care in any season; and their milk and their flesh are sufficient to satisfy those who are unacquainted with greater luxuries. Indeed, goats should never be withdrawn from the solitudes in which they delight. They are extremely injurious to young plantations.

In various respects, this quadruped contributes to the necessities of human life. Though the flesh of the full-grown animal is by no means comparable to mutton, it is certainly not to be despised. The value of the milk has already been noticed. From the hair, perukes and even cloth is manufactured; and

the skin and horns are applicable to numerous purposes.

The goat is now sufficiently naturalized in America, but it was not originally a native of that continent. It has multiplied, however, extremely, and finds the new world, in many respects, better adapted to its habits and constitution than the old.

Sonnini mentions a singular instance of a foal, that had lost its dam, having been suckled, with the utmost maternal solicitude, by a goat. Such deviations from the established laws of nature are not unfrequent, and they furnish the most incontrovertible evidence, that blind instinct is the only guide of animals, whatever sagacity they may appear to possess. An animal that has just brought forth, feels that she was destined to give suck; and, if she has lost her own progeny, she readily adopts that of some other creature, that her milky streams may still flow in their destined channels.

THE STAG.

ANIMALS of the deer kind are distinguished by having deciduous horns. They compose some of those innocent and peaceable quadrupeds which embellish the forests, and animate the solitudes of nature. At the head of them in this country, both for magnitude and beauty, stands the stag, or hart, called also the red deer; the female of which is a *hind*, and the young a *calf*. It is generally of a reddish brown colour, and was formerly pretty numerous, in a wild state, in various parts of England, Wales, and Scotland. It is even now sometimes found, enjoying its native independence, in the forest of Exmore, in Devonshire, and the woods on the banks of the Tamar. In other parts of England, it begins to become rare, even in a reclaimed state; but, in the Highlands of Scotland, where cultivation has not encroached on its domains, it still constitutes a principal beauty in the landscape.

The males alone have horns, and these they shed every spring, while each new set is adorned with an additional branch. The calf has only a rough excrescence; in the second year,

A Stag

A Fox

London, Publish'd by Tabart & Co. Aug. 7 - 1804.

the horns are straight, and without branches; the third year, they acquire two antlers, or branches; and they commonly gain an additional one every year till their sixth, when the animals may be considered at maturity. From this period, they multiply so irregularly, that the age of the stag begins to be estimated, not so much by the number of the antlers, as by the size and thickness of the whole horns.—The shedding of their horns is a season of some pain and inconvenience, and it happens earlier or later, according as the winter has been mild or inclement.

Delicacy and acuteness of the senses distinguish the stag in a high degree. His powers of smelling are exquisite; his eye sparkles with expression; and he hears distant sounds with astonishing quickness. He seems delighted with the sound of the shepherd's pipe; and the hunters sometimes make use of that instrument to draw him to their lure.

The forest is the favourite haunt of this interesting quadruped, and the browse of trees his principal food. He is mild and gentle in his manners, and views mankind, if unaccompanied with dogs or guns, without fear, and even with a degree of confidence. Reduced, however, to extremity, by the attacks of an enemy, he kicks with his fore feet, and pushes with his horns: dogs often suffer from his fierce de-

spair, and a tiger has been known to flee before him*.

These animals live in herds of many females and their young, headed by one male, who is strenuous in preventing encroachments on his province. In winter and spring, they seldom drink; but, in summer, they boldly plunge into the streams, and sometimes they have been seen following each other in a line, each succeeding one reclining his horns on the rump of his companion immediately before him. A stag has been known to cross an arm of the sea, in search of the hind; and, on such occasions, his fury is not to be opposed, nor rashly to be encountered.

The hind goes with young between eight and nine months, and seldom produces more than one at a birth. At this period, which generally happens in May, or the beginning of June, she retires to some sequestered spot, and nurses her offspring with the tenderest affection. She carefully hides it in some dark thicket; and should danger, nevertheless, approach, she is not wanting in resolution, and will sell her life in its defence. Mr. White, of Selborne, informs us "that some deer-stealers once ad-

* Some years ago, the late Duke of Cumberland caused a tiger and a stag to be inclosed in the same area; when the stag made such a bold and furious defence, that the tiger was at last obliged to abandon the contest.

vancing, with a dog, to a place in Wolmer Forest, where they suspected a calf to have been deposited, the parent hind rushed forth from the brake, and making a vast spring, with all her feet close together, pitched upon the neck of the dog, who fell dead to the ground."

Unnatural as it may appear, the stag himself is a professed enemy to his young; and the hind is obliged to use all her address to conceal the calf from his sight.

Thirty or forty years are the ordinary term of this animal's life; nor is there any just foundation for the opinion of the ancients, who give it a much greater longevity. Indeed, the circumstances of his life, and the nature of the food and climate, influence the size and stature of the stag, and probably his life also; but we have no reason for supposing that he has ever reached a hundred years.

The species of stags are diffused over all Europe, and through the northern parts of America and Asia, except towards the Arctic circle. In all parts of the world, where he is found, and at all periods of history, hunting the stag seems to have been a favourite diversion; and this disgrace to humanity was as conspicuous in our own country as in any other. From their numbers being reduced, it is not, however, now so frequent as in former times, when forests were appropriated for the exclusive range of animals of this kind,

and princes and nobles forgot superior duties, in the savage pastime of the chase. Our early kings, of the Norman line, were remarkable for their attachment to this cruel sport; and that they might indulge it without restraint,

> The fields were ravish'd from th' industrious swains,
> From men their cities, and from gods their fanes.

Thomson gives a most animated description of stag-hunting; the conclusion of which we subjoin, not as an incentive, but for a contrary purpose:

> Oft in the full descending flood he tries
> To lose the scent, and lave his burning sides;
> Oft seeks the herd; the watchful herd, alarm'd,
> With selfish care avoids a brother's woe.
> What shall he do? his once so vivid nerves,
> So full of buoyant spirits, now no more
> Inspire the course; but fainting, breathless toil,
> Sick seizes on his heart; he stands at bay;
> And puts his last, weak refuge, in despair.

The flesh is much less esteemed than that of the fallow deer, yet it is a pleasant and wholesome kind of food. The skin is dressed into excellent leather; and the horns are applied to various useful purposes, both in the arts and in medicine.

THE FALLOW DEER.

THE fallow deer strikingly resembles the stag in its general appearance; but it is smaller, more delicate, and timid; and approaches somewhat to the nature of a domestic animal. Though inhabiting the same forests, the two species never associate together, and they neither seem to feel attachment nor antipathy. The fallow deer, however, has palmated instead of round horns; it is likewise more various in its colours, and has less perfect organs of sensation. The male of this species is called a *buck;* the female, a *doe;* and the young, a *fawn.* Though natives of most parts of Europe, and some districts of Asia, they seem to thrive best in parks, where they can enjoy the protection of man. They feed in herds, and frequently break into parties, between which, sharp contests arise. The buck, however, is a mild animal, when compared with the stag; he flies before he is attacked, and it is remarkable, that, at the season when he is in the highest condition, he tries to conceal himself, as if conscious of his danger. On the contrary, when the flesh of the doe is in season, he fearlessly frequents

his usual haunts, while she, in her turn, seems inspired with a sense of the destruction that awaits her. The doe goes between eight and nine months with young, and produces one, sometimes two, and rarely three, at a time. She watches over her fawns with the tender solicitude of a mother; and though her timidity will seldom allow her to fight in their defence, against a formidable enemy, she shews all the emotions of nature, and bespeaks pity where she cannot resist.

These animals arrive at perfection in three years, and live to about the age of twenty. They are easily tamed; and, when brought up by the hand, appear capable of a considerable degree of attachment. They are the principal ornaments of the parks of our nobility and gentry; they enliven our forests; and, as they feed more indiscriminately on vegetable substances than the stag, they are more universally diffused, and more easily supported. But there is a superior reason for the breed being encouraged. The flesh of the fallow deer is perhaps the most delicate of all viands this country produces; and those who are fond of good living, know how to appreciate it. For a venison feast, there are numbers who sell their birth-right.

The buck, like all animals that have been taken under the protection of man, is subject to considerable variations in colour and size.

England contains two varieties, which are said to have been of foreign origin; namely, the beautiful dappled kind, supposed to have been imported from Bengal, and the very deep brown, originally introduced into Scotland from Norway, by James I. and thence transplanted into England, where it thrives, and has multiplied prodigiously.

The fallow deer, though less fleet and persevering than the stag, is frequently an object of the chase. It displays much cunning and dexterity in its doublings and shifts to escape, and trusts rather to them, than to courage and resistance.

Both stags and fallow deer, when drinking, hold their noses for a considerable time under water; and appear to breathe through spiracula under their eyes, which are kindly given them by Providence, in order that they may have a freer respiration when they are pursued.

Every part of the fallow deer is applicable to the same useful purposes as the stag, and their flesh is infinitely superior.

THE HOG.

THE hog is an animal so well known, that any particular description of it may appear impertinent; yet few are acquainted with all its qualities and habitudes. No one needs be told that it is covered with bristles, that the male is called a *boar*, the female a *sow*, and the young, *pigs;* but many are not aware that this quadruped unites those distinctions by which others are separated, and that, in some respects, it seems to form an intermediate link between the whole and the cloven-footed animals; and in others, between the cloven-footed and the digitated. They resemble the horse kind in the length of their heads, in having only a single stomach, and in the number of their teeth. In their cloven feet, and the position of their intestines, they bear some similitude to the cow, and in their numerous progeny, and their occasional appetite for flesh, they resemble the claw-footed or digitated tribes.

Apparently, the hog is the most filthy and impure of all quadrupeds, equally disgusting in his form and his manners; yet we must not judge by our sensations, or overlook that wise

decree of Providence which adapts every part of creation to its proper ends and uses. The hog, indeed, is inelegant in his shape, and he seems actuated by an insatiable desire of eating; but, when young, he is generally esteemed pretty, and though he will sometimes devour the most nauseous offals, he is not insensible to the difference of food, or incapable of making just distinctions, when he has an opportunity. After all, this quadruped is not inaptly compared to the miser, who, during his lifetime, is useless and rapacious, but through the effects of his sordidness becomes of public benefit at his death. The hog in his lifetime renders not the least service to mankind, and therefore was justly described by the negro, with whom idleness and gentility were synonymous terms, as being the only *gentleman*; but, when made into bacon or pork, he furnishes sustenance to a great proportion of mankind; and though reckoned unclean by the laws of Moses, persons of athletic constitutions, and who use sufficient exercise, will find his flesh at once nutritive and salubrious. Indeed, pork, as taking salt better than other kinds of meat, is an article of the greatest importance in a naval and commercial nation like this. Brawn, which is a manufacture of hog's flesh peculiar to England, is a feast for an epicure; pigs, when a few weeks old, are very delicate

eating; and lard or fat is useful in medicine and the arts; while the skin forms the best seats for saddles, and even the bristles are of the greatest utility when made into brushes. Thus, though the living animal may possess few agreeable qualities, his value is universally allowed when dead,

The wild-boar, which was once not uncommon in this island, and which is the stock or original of the domestic hog, is a native of almost all the temperate climates of Europe and Asia, and is also found in some districts of Africa. While young, these animals live in herds, for the sake of mutual defence; but, as soon as they arrive at maturity, they traverse the forest alone and undaunted. They are numerous in the woods of Germany, where they are hunted for the sake of their flesh. They seldom attack unprovoked; but they dread no enemy, and shun none, trusting less to speed, in which they do not excel, than to a stubborn resistance, and at last submit rather to be worried than to yield.

The domestic hog is, generally speaking, a very harmless and stupid creature; it enjoys none of the powers of sensation in any eminent degree. It has been known to suffer mice to burrow in its back, without expressing any sense of uneasiness; and its sight seems rather imperfect. It hears, however, distant sounds; and an approaching storm

seems to affect his feelings in a singular manner. When the wind blows high, it seems much agitated, and runs towards its sty, sometimes screaming in a most violent manner. Naturalists have also remarked, that it will carry straw to its bed before bad weather; and the vulgar opinion is, "that it can see the wind."

In their taste, swine shew a singular degree of caprice. They are sometimes delicate in their choice of food, and sometimes disgustingly indifferent. They have been known to destroy and eat their own young, and to mangle infants out of desperate voracity; but these deviations from nature are no more to be accounted for than the frantic actions of a madman; for, in general, they are drowsy and stupid, delighting to rout up the earth with their snout, in search of roots, to wallow in the mire, and to bask in the sun.

Though hogs appear the most unpromising animals of nature for human industry to exert itself on, they have been known to profit so considerably by education as to acquire the title of "Learned Pigs," and, indeed, with some reason; for they have been taught to tell the hour of the day, by the bare inspection of a watch, and to select and arrange the letters composing any particular name.

In Italy, they are trained to hunt for truffles; in Minorca, they are frequently seen

yoked to the plough, in company with an ass or a cow; and in our country, a game-keeper, belonging to Sir Henry Mildmay, had so far succeeded with a black sow as to employ her in sporting. She answered to the name of Slut, and was as staunch a pointer as ever followed game.

Indeed, hogs are not unsusceptible of attachment, to their keepers, or to each other. The moment one of them gives a signal of distress, all within hearing rush to its assistance. They have been known to gather round a dog, that teazed them, and to kill him on the spot. If a male and female, when young, have been shut up together, and afterwards parted, it is probable that one or both of them will pine to death.

Swine are remarkably tenacious of life.—The female goes four months with young, and has been known to produce twenty at a time, though, on an average, ten is reckoned a full litter. These animals will live to between twenty and thirty years, and the older the more stubborn they become. To prevent their ploughing up the earth, it is frequently necessary to put rings in their snouts. They are, however, extremely useful in clearing the ground of refuse and filth; and, in America, they confer a signal benefit on the inhabitants, by destroying the rattle-snake, which they can do with perfect impunity. There are many

A Bull Dog

A Greyhound

A Spaniel

London Published by Tabart & Co. Aug. 7-1809.

varieties of this genus diffused over the greatest part of the world.

THE DOG.

THE dog, for many of those qualities that deserve the love and gratitude of mankind, stands without a rival among the irrational orders of creation. Some of his most prominent qualities and habits have been thus accurately described by Linnæus: "The dog," says he, "is the most faithful of animals, the companion of mankind, fawns at the approach of his master, and will not suffer any one to strike him; runs before him in a journey, passing frequently backward and forward over the same ground; on coming to cross-ways, he stops and looks back; is very docile; will find out what has been dropt; is vigilant by night; announces the coming of strangers, and guards any goods committed to his charge: he drives the cattle home from the field; keeps herds and flocks within bounds, and protects them from wild beasts. By means of his acute sense of smelling, he points out the game to the sportsman, and brings the birds that are shot to his master. At Brussels and in Holland, he draws little carts to the herb market;

in Siberia, he draws a sledge, with his master in it, or one loaded with provisions. He will turn a spit, sits up, and begs at table; and, when he has committed a theft, he slinks away, with his tail between his legs. He eats enviously, with oblique eyes; strives to be master among his fellows at home; is an enemy to beggars, and attacks strangers without provocation. He is fond of licking wounds, assuages the pain of the gout, and of cancerous ulcers; howls at certain notes of music; is sick at the approach of bad weather; gives himself an emetic by eating grass; is afflicted with tape-worms; spreads his madness; and grows deaf and blind with age. He eats flesh, carrion, and farinaceous substances, but not greens; drinks by lapping, and is fond of rolling on carrion and dung. His scent is exquisite; he goes obliquely; foams and hangs out his tongue when hot, but seldom sweats. When about to lie down, he often turns round; even in his sleep he has a quick sense of hearing, and frequently dreams. The female goes sixty-three days with young, brings forth from three to ten; the males like the dog, the females generally like herself. The largest and tallest are most prolific. Considered as unclean by the Mahometans, and driven from their houses; yet the same people establish hospitals for dogs, and allow them a daily portion of food."

Independent of the beauty of his form, his vivacity, force, and swiftness, he is possessed of all those native qualities that generally conciliate the affections of the human species. A natural courage and ferocious disposition render the dog, in his savage state, a formidable enemy to all other animals; but, when domesticated, his only ambition seems to be a desire of pleasing: he approaches with a timid respect, and lays his strength, his spirit, and all his useful talents, at his master's feet. He waits his orders, to which he pays implicit obedience; he consults his looks, and a single glance is sufficient to put him in motion. His fidelity has scarcely an example among mankind; and, unlike human friends, he will never desert us in the day of affliction. A beggar's dog would not quit his master to wait upon a prince; and though his manners certainly partake of those of the persons with whom he associates, his virtues, if they may be so called, are uninfluenced by extrinsic circumstances. He is more ready to remember a favour than to resent an injury: if hurt by those with whom he resides, he will lick the hand that has inflicted the wound, and solicit favour as if he were the aggressor. He is even a friend to his master's friends; and, were he capable of distinguishing his enemies, they would feel that his sentiments were the same. In a word, the dog is a most pleasing

companion by the fire-side; he watches our property when we sleep, he attends us in our walks, and he heightens all our enjoyments. Without him there could be no field sports: in all our exercises he takes a part, and seems inspired with all our predilections.

As the dog is capable of having his disposition moulded to our wishes, so, of all creatures, he is the most susceptible of change in his form: The varieties of this animal are too numerous even for the most attentive observer to enumerate: food, climate, education, all, make strong impressions on him, and produce alterations in his shape, colour, hair, size, and almost every thing, except his nature.

The predominant attachment of dogs to mankind prevents them from separating from us till deserted, or by some accident left in places where there was no possibility of reunion. They are found in great numbers wild, or rather without masters, in Congo, in Lower Ethiopia, and towards the Cape of Good Hope. There are likewise multitudes of dogs that run wild in South America, where they breed in holes, like rabbits; but all these are easily reclaimed, and afterwards preserve an inviolable affection for their masters.

Before the discovery of America, the dog was quite unknown on that continent. The

alco of the Peruvians, which was used as a substitute, is too imperfectly described to enable us to determine what it was. In North America, however, the natives had a domestic animal derived from the wolf, but with this peculiarity, that it cannot bark; and between it and the European dog, the greatest animosity still subsists.

The varieties of dogs in Great Britain are very numerous, as must naturally be expected in a country where commerce is extensive, and where wealth is apt to beget capricious predilection. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, there were some breeds which are now totally lost, and on the other hand, new varieties have been introduced, and these are still breaking into other varieties; for it should be observed, that all the kind intermix with each other.

Naturalists, indeed, have remarked no fewer than twenty-three strongly-marked varieties of the dog, among which, all our domestic kinds, with their different shades, are included; namely,

1 The New Holland dog.
2 The Pomeranian dog.
3 The Siberian dog.
4 The Iceland dog.
5 The water dog.
6 The great water spaniel.
7 The Newfoundland dog.

8 King Charles's dog.
9 The Maltese dog.
10 The hound.
11 The blood-hound.
12 The pointer.
13 The Dalmatian, or spotted dog.
14 The Irish greyhound.
15 The common greyhound.
16 The Italian greyhound.
17 The naked dog.
18 The mastiff.
19 The bull-dog
20 The pug dog.
21 The terrier.
22 The turnspit.
23 The alco, or Peruvian dog.

Some of the principal of those varieties, which are naturalized among us, will be particularly noticed; but, previous to this, it cannot fail to be entertaining to our young readers, to give them some general characteristic anecdotes of this interesting race of animals, from the most authentic sources we can procure*.

* A little book, intituled, "The Dog of Knowledge, or Memoirs of Bob, the Spotted Terrier," will be found not only an agreeable work of imagination, but replete with much real history of the dog kind; and to it we refer our juvenile readers.

A French merchant, having some money due from a correspondent, set out on horseback, accompanied by his dog, to receive it. Having settled the business to his satisfaction, he tied the bag of money before him, and began to return home. After riding several miles, the merchant alighted to repose himself, and, laying the money by his side under a hedge, on remounting, forgot it. The dog, perceiving the mistake, ran after his master, barking, howling, and biting his horse's heels. The merchant, absorbed in some reverie, overlooked the real object of the faithful dog's importunity, and was only alive to the alarming apprehensions that his attendant was gone mad. After many struggles with himself, and balancing danger against attachment, he pulled a pistol from his pocket, and, with a trembling hand, took aim. The poor dog fell, wounded; the merchant in an agony galloped on, but had not proceeded far, before he missed his bag of money. His forgetfulness, his rashness, now burst upon his mind: he put spurs to his horse, and was soon in sight of the spot where he had alighted. There he found his dog lying by the side of his bag in the agonies of death, but seeming determined to discharge his duty to the last. He was just able to open his eyes, and lick his master's hand, and then, seemingly content, closed them for ever.

The care of the dog in directing the steps of the blind, is highly deserving of notice, and most of us have witnessed it. Mr. Ray informs us, that a blind beggar was thus led through the streets of Rome, by a middle-sized dog, which, besides conducting his master in safety, learned to distinguish the streets and the houses where he was accustomed to receive alms. He regularly stopped at every door where he had formerly been successful, and when the beggar began his petition, the poor animal lay down to rest. No sooner, however, was the blind man denied relief, or served, than the dog rose of his own accord, and, without order or sign, proceeded to the next house where charity had usually been bestowed. "I have observed," says Ray, "not without pleasure and surprise, that when a piece of money was thrown from a window, the dog would search for it, take it up in his mouth, and place it in his master's hat. Even when victuals were thrown down, the animal would not taste it, unless he received it from the hand of his owner. Instances have likewise been known of a dog being taught to go to market with money, and carry home provisions in safety. Some years ago, the keeper of a turnpike-gate, near Stratford-upon-Avon, had trained his dog to go to that town for any small articles he wanted. A note, mentioning the things, was tied round

the dog's neck, and in the same manner the purchases were returned, and brought to the master with the utmost punctuality.

Smellie, in his Philosophy of Natural History, mentions a grocer's dog, of Edinburgh, which, for some time, amused the people in the neighbourhood. A man, whose business it was to sell penny pies in the street, with a bell, happened one day to treat this dog with a pie. Next time he heard the pieman's bell, he ran up to him, and, seizing him by the coat, would not suffer him to pass. The pieman, understanding what the dog wanted, shewed him a penny, and pointed to the dog's master, who was standing at the door, and observing this curious transaction. The dog immediately quitted his hold, and began to supplicate his master, who, putting a penny in his mouth, the creature instantly delivered it to the pieman, and received his pie. This traffic, it seems, was daily carried on, for several months.

At a convent in France, when France saw better days, twenty paupers were daily relieved, at a certain hour, on ringing a bell, by means of a machine which turned round in the wall, and neither allowed the giver nor the receiver to be seen. A dog, belonging to the convent, had frequently attended the paupers, and sometimes came in for a few scraps. One day, however, having obtained very little,

after the pensioners were all gone, he took the pull in his mouth, and rang the bell, when a portion of victuals was immediately produced to him. This stratagem he repeated several times; but the cook, finding that there were twenty-one claimants instead of twenty, determined to discover the imposition. He lay concealed, saw the paupers regularly apply, and served, and the cunning dog then ringing for his dinner. The joke pleased; and, as a reward for his ingenuity, the dog was permitted to ring the bell every day, when he obtained a mess of broken victuals for his pains.

In proof of the sagacity of the dog, examples might be multiplied without end. In the year 1791, a stranger, who pretended to have just arrived from the West Indies, took lodgings at a house in Deptford, and, having agreed on the terms, said he would send his trunk in the evening, and come himself next day. The trunk arrived at the time mentioned, and was carried into the lodger's bedroom, without any particular notice. Just, however, as the family were retiring to rest, their little house-dog placed himself close to the chamber-door, where the chest was deposited, and set up a loud barking. The door being opened, to see what was the matter, the dog flew to the chest, against which it scratched and barked with redoubled fury,

nor could it be drawn out of the room. This exciting some suspicion, the family called in a few neighbours, to make them eye-witnesses of the circumstance; when, beginning to move the trunk about, it was plainly perceived that something alive was concealed in it. This determined them to force it open, when, to the astonishment of the family, they found in it their new lodger, who, it seems, had been conveyed into the house in this manner, on purpose to rob it, and most probably would have succeeded, had it not been for the instinctive sagacity of the dog.

A still more remarkable incident, in which the dog was the principal party, happened, in 1760, near Hammersmith. While a waterman, of that place, named Richardson, was sleeping in his boat, the vessel broke from her moorings, and was carried, by the tide, under a west-country barge. Providentially for the man, his dog was with him, who, seeing the boat begin to fill, awakened his master, by pawing his face and pulling the collar of his coat; and thus saved him from the inevitable destruction that awaited him.

On the authority of Dr. Beattie, we give the following remarkable anecdote of a dog. A gentleman, of the name of Irvine, who lived near Aberdeen, in walking across the river Dee, when it was frozen, the ice gave way, and he sunk down near the middle of

the stream, but kept himself from being carried under the ice, by grasping his gun, which had fallen athwart the opening. A dog who attended him, after many fruitless attempts to rescue his master, ran to a neighbouring village, and took hold of the coat of the first person he met. The man, alarmed, attempted to disengage himself; but the dog, regarding him with a very kind and significant look, endeavoured to pull him along with such a gentle violence, that he began to think there might be something extraordinary in the case; and, accordingly, suffered himself to be conducted, by the animal, to the river's bank, where he arrived soon enough to save his master's life. In this, we see memory and recollection guided by experience, and by what, in a human being, we should call good sense; but rather let us consider it as an interposition of Heaven—which, however, was still more visible in what we are going to relate.

Sir Harry Lee, of Ditchley, in Oxfordshire, ancestor to the late Earls of Litchfield, and to the present Lord Viscount Dillon, had a large house-dog which guarded the yard, but had never met with the least particular attention from his master. One night, however, as Sir Harry was retiring to his chamber, attended by his valet, a Frenchman, the dog silently followed them up stairs, which he had never been knowu to do before, and, to his

master's astonishment, presented himself in the bed-room. Being deemed an intruder, he was rudely turned out; but he scratched and howled so violently at the door, that, rather to get rid of his importunity, than out of any regard for his dog, Sir Harry ordered him to be admitted, and to let him take up his lodging where he pleased. The dog crawled under the bed, and lay down in peace. About the middle of the night, however, when all was still, the chamber-door opened, and a person was heard walking softly across the room. Sir Harry started from sleep; the dog sprung from his covert, and, seizing the intruder, fixed him to the spot. He proved to be the valet.

To make short, it was found that the valet had formed the diabolical design, that very night to murder his master, and to rob the house; both which he afterwards confessed, and that he had been prevented from the perpetration of his crimes, solely by the instinctive attachment of the dog to his master, which seems to have been directed, on this occasion, by the kindness of Providence.—How, else, could the poor animal foresee the meditated assassination! How, else, could he have learned to overlook injury and insult for his well-meant services, and, finally, to seize and detain a person who, it is probable, had shewn him more kindness than his master

had ever done! A full-length picture of Sir Harry, with the dog by his side, and the words—"More faithful, than favoured,"—is still to be seen at the family seat, at Ditchley, and will be a lasting memorial of the gratitude of the master, and the fidelity of his dog*.

But it is not only in natural sagacity that the dog excels all other quadrupeds; he may be taught a thousand amusing tricks, and trained to the most useful services. The dancing dogs, that once performed at Sadler's Wells, shewed how far education can go, in one line. After storming a fort, and performing various other feats, with the address of veterans, one of them was brought in as a deserter, was shot, and carried off, as dead, by his comrades.

It is recorded of a dog belonging to the Medici family, that it always attended at its master's table, changed his plate, and carried him his wine, in a glass placed on a salver, without spilling a drop. It would also hold the stirrup in its teeth, while its master was mounting his horse.

We are told by Plutarch, that a dog was exhibited before the Emperor Vespasian, in the theatre of Marcellus, that excelled in every

* See "The Dog of Knowledge."

kind of dance. He afterwards feigned illness in so natural a manner, as to strike the spectators with astonishment, first shewing symptoms of pain, then falling down as dead, and suffering himself to be carried about in that state; and, after a proper interval, seeming to revive, as if waking from a profound sleep. By degrees, he recovered his playfulness, and shewed every demonstration of joy.

But of all the attainments of the dog, that of his being taught to speak seems the most extraordinary. The French Academicians, however, make mention of a dog, in Germany, that could call for several articles of food and refreshments, in an intelligible manner. This dog was of a middling size, and belonged to a peasant in Saxony. He owed his education to a little boy, the son of the peasant, who, imagining that he perceived in the dog's voice some resemblance to certain words, undertook the office of instruction, when his pupil was about three years of age, and persevered till he was able to pronounce a number of words. Leibnitz, the philosopher, declares that he himself heard him speak.

We have likewise heard of another speaking dog, which, some years ago, was exhibited in Stockholm, which could articulate several complete sentences, in French and Swedish. *Vive le Roi* he pronounced with much grace.

Every one has witnessed the sensibility and attachment of dogs, but no one has better expressed it than Homer. His description of Argus, the dog of Ulysses, and the affection he shewed on his master's return, is admirably just.

He knew his lord; he knew, and strove to meet;
In vain he strove to crawl, and kiss his feet;
Yet all he could—his tail, his ears, his eyes,
Salute his master, and confess his joys.
O, had you seen him, vigorous, bold, and young,
Swift as a stag, and as a lion strong!
Him no fell savage on the plain withstood,
None 'scap'd him, bosom'd in the gloomy wood.
His eye how piercing, and his scent how true
To wind the vapour in the tainted dew!
This dog, whom fate thus granted to behold
His lord, when twenty tedious years had roll'd,
Takes a last look, and, having seen him, dies!
So clos'd, for ever, faithful Argus' eyes.
Then pity touch'd the mighty master's soul,
And down his cheek a tear unbidden stole.

We give place to the subsequent ludicrous anecdote of a dog, on the authority of Lackington; and, from what we have seen, of the sagacity of dogs that have never been chronicled, we think it neither impossible nor improbable.

Mr. C. Hughes, a son of Thespis, had a wig which generally hung on a peg in one of his rooms. To accommodate a brother player, he one day lent the wig to him; and, some time after, called on his friend. Mr. Hughes

had his dog with him, and the man happened to have the borrowed wig on his head. After some conversation, they parted; but the dog remained behind, and stood, for some time, looking the man full in his face, then, making a sudden spring, he leaped on his shoulders, seized the wig, and ran off with it as fast as he could, and, having reached his home, with the prey in his teeth, endeavoured, by jumping, to hang it up in its usual place. The same dog, one day, passing through a field in the skirts of Dartmouth, where a washer-woman had hung out her linen to dry, stopped, and surveyed one particular shirt with attention; then seizing it, he dragged it away, through the dirt, to his master, whose property it happened to be.

Caius, who attempted the natural history of dogs, and who lived in the reign of Elizabeth, divides the whole race into three sorts. The first, being the generous kind, consists of the terrier, the harrier, the blood-hound, the gaze-hound, the greyhound, the leymner, and the tumbler, employed in hunting; the spaniel, the setter, and the water-spaniel or finder, used in fowling; and the small spaniel, and the gentle or lap-dog, for amusement. The second sort, or farm kind, consists of the shepherd's dog, and the mastiff. The third, being the mongrel kind, consists of the wappe, the turnspit, and the dancer. Some of those va-

rieties are no longer known; but we may now add to them the pointer, the bull-dog, the Newfoundland dog, the Danish dog, and the harlequin, with an endless tribe of lap-dogs, unworthy of particular appellations. It will be sufficient, however, if we describe the shepherd's dog, the hound, the greyhound, the spaniel, the mastiff, the Newfounland dog, the bull-dog, and the terrier.

THE SHEPHERD'S DOG.

THE characters of this variety are, a sharp nose; sharp, erect ears; a tail turned up, or curled; and much hair, especially about the neck. These dogs are almost instinctively the guardians of the flocks, keeping them within bounds, reducing the stragglers to their proper limits, and defending them from the attacks of beasts of prey. In temperate climates, they are very numerous; but, here, as they have nothing but merit and utility to recommend them, they are generally superseded by more elegant varieties. They possess, however, a superior share of sagacity, notwithstanding their inelegance and melancholy aspect; and execute their employment

with amazing fidelity, vigilance, and assiduity. Their natural talents at once admonish and give repose to their masters. It would be endless to produce instances of their attention to their duty, and the facility with which they distinguish the sheep they have been accustomed to guard, from the neighbouring flocks.

The Pomeranian dog, and the Siberian dog, are subordinate varieties of this breed.

THE HOUND.

This animal is well known for its use in hunting. There are three varieties, all produced by the same dam; namely, the hound, the harrier, and the beagle. The ears are long and pendulous, the nose is obtuse, and the mouth large. If transported into a warm climate, it would soon acquire soft and long hair, and assume the appearance of the land and water spaniel.

The spirit with which hounds pursue the chase is wonderful. It is recorded, by Bewick, that a very large stag having been turned out of Whinfield-Park, in Westmorland, the whole pack, except two staunch dogs, were thrown out, by the long continuance of the

chase, which occupied the greatest part of the day. The stag returned to the park, from whence he set out, after a circuit calculated at not less than one hundred and twenty miles; and, as his last effort, leaped the wall, and immediately expired. One of the hounds pursued him to the wall, but being unable to clear it, lay down and died; the other was found dead at a small distance.

The blood-hound, belonging to this race, was formerly in great request, to recover game that had escaped wounded from the hunter, and to trace robbers and plunderers to their lurking places, particularly on the northern borders. Fortunately, the arm of justice is now extended over every part of the country: and, as there are no secret recesses, where villany can lie concealed, their services are no longer wanted for the latter purpose, and very few are now kept for the former.

THE GREYHOUND.

THIS well-known animal is the swiftest of all the dog kind, and pursues his game by the sight, and not by the scent. By the laws of King Canute, no person, under the rank of

a gentleman, was allowed to keep a greyhound; so much was he formerly esteemed. The varieties are, the Italian greyhound, and the oriental greyhound. As for the Irish greyhound, or wolf-dog, which was once employed with so much success, to clear the island of wolves, and which was in reality one of the noblest animals of the dog kind, his services being no longer wanted, the breed is almost become extinct.

THE SPANIEL.

FROM the name of this animal, it seems as if we were originally indebted to Spain for the breed. Dogs of this kind vary in size, from the setting dogs to the springing spaniels, and some of the small lap-dogs. King Charles's breed, as they are called, are distinguished by being of a black colour, with a black palate. The Blenheim breed, a beautifully marked variety, is perhaps the most fashionable, at present, for dogs of pleasure. They are frequently sold from three to ten guineas each; but it may be reasonably supposed that fancy gives them such a value.

Spaniels are affectionate, playful creatures,

but possess no very marked character. They are not destitute, however, of sagacity. The writer of this knows a gentleman, still residing in the west of the metropolis, who made a present of a little favourite spaniel to a friend going on the continent, about fifteen years ago. The dog was carried to Brussels, and after a few days, disappeared. His new master, in the first letter he wrote to England, mentioned, with regret, the loss of the dog to his former master, who had scarcely read it, before he heard a scratching at the street door. On opening it, the very identical little dog was ready to obtain admission. It had found its way in safety, by some conveyance that never could be accounted for, from Brussels, and travelled almost as quick as the mail*.

THE MASTIFF.

THE mastiff is peculiar to this country. He is very large and strong, but commands respect rather than excites terror, unless when his duty comes in competition with his good-nature. He is generally employed to guard

* For a most affecting anecdote of a spaniel, see "The Dog of Knowledge," page 163.

our yards, and will frequently suffer a stranger to come within his province, and will peaceably accompany him, as long as he forbears to touch any thing; but the moment he attempts to lay hold of any article on the premises, or wishes to leave the place, the animal begins to growl, and convinces him that he must neither steal nor depart. He seldom, however, uses violence, unless resisted; and even in that case he will vanquish, but not injure the intruder, holding him down for hours without biting, unless he is earlier relieved.

Stow relates an instance of a contest between three mastiffs and a lion, in the presence of King James I. One of the dogs being put into the den, was speedily disabled by the lion, the second was served in the same manner; but the third being put in immediately seized the lion by the lip, and held him for a considerable time; till being severely torn by his claws, the dog was obliged to quit his hold. The lion, greatly exhausted by the conflict, took a leap over the dogs, and fled into the interior part of his den. Two of the dogs soon died of their wounds, the last survived, and was taken great care of.

The mastiff, indeed, conscious of his superior strength, will sometimes chastise the impertinence of an inferior with great dignity. A large dog of this kind, belonging to the late —— Ridley, Esq. of Heaton, near New-

castle, being teazed by the barking of a mongrel, took it up in his mouth by the back, and, with great composure, dopped it over the quay into the river, without taking any other revenge on an adversary so contemptible.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

THESE faithful and sagacious animals, which are now commonly used to guard our houses, instead of the mastiff, were originally brought from Newfoundland, where they are much employed by the settlers, in bringing down wood in sledges, from the interior parts of the country to the sea coast. Their strength is very great, and their docility is not less so. They are web-footed, and therefore calculated to swim with great facility, and in consequence of this, they have saved numbers from a watery grave. Nor is it only their masters that they will endeavour to assist; they seem to have a natural disposition to rescue from the water, whatever or whosoever is in danger of suffering. In the summer of 1792, a gentleman was bathing at Portsmouth, in one of the machines; and being unacquainted with the steepness of the

shore, and no swimmer, he was soon out of his depth. His danger was not perceived by the person whose business it was to attend him, and it is probable he might have perished, had not a Newfoundland dog, standing on the shore, providentially seen the accident, and swam to his assistance. He dragged him to the beach, in a state of insensibility, and it was some time before he recovered. The gentleman purchased his preserver at a great price, and considered him as the most valuable property he had. We shall only give another anecdote of this sagacious and intrepid animal: in the year 1789, during a violent storm, a ship, belonging to Newcastle, was lost near Yarmouth, and nothing escaped alive, except a Newfoundland dog, who swam ashore with the captain's pocket-book in his mouth. He landed amidst a concourse of people, whom the catastrophe had assembled together, several of whom in vain attempted to rob him of his prize. The sagacious animal, as if conscious of the importance of the charge, which perhaps was intrusted to him by his perishing master, at length having selected a person who seemed worthy of his confidence, leaped in a fawning manner upon him, and delivered the book to him. This duty discharged, he returned to the place where he had landed, and anxiously watched

and seized every article that was driven ashore from the wreck.

THE BULL-DOG.

This variety has a large thick head, a short nose, and the under jaw shorter than the upper. It is strong, fierce, and cruel, frequently biting before it gives warning of its approach. This animal is peculiar to England; and, since bull-baiting, that opprobium to a civilized nation, has been on the decline, the breed is becoming more scarce, and humanity would have reason to rejoice were it quite extinct. Not, indeed, that the bull-dog is a dangerous creature, but because it is applied to the most barbarous purposes. Some years ago, a young savage, confident of the courage of his bull-dog, laid a trifling wager, that he would at separate times, cut off all the animal's feet; and that after every successive amputation, he would attack the bull. This cruel and unmanly experimaut was tried, and the inhuman owner won his bet.

THE TERRIER.

The terrier is a small rough kind of hound, with a most acute smell, and is the natural enemy of rats, mice, weasels, and other vermin. He possesses so much courage, as to attack even the badger; nor can the most resolute opposition daunt his ardour. He is likewise employed so drive the fox from his hole; and is therefore a peculiar favourite with sportsmen, and in high estimation, as a domestic companion.

A spotted variety of the terrier kind, marked with white, tan-colour, and black, has lately been introduced into some parts of this kingdom; and, as they are far from being numerous at present, they are proportionably valued. Indeed, they possess many agreeable qualities; they have all the spirit of sporting dogs, all the attachment of the most faithful of the kind, and all the elegance of the lap-dog.

That the terrier is susceptible of many of the passions that agitate mankind, and has no small share of address, will be manifest from the following anecdote. A Staffordshire gentleman used to come twice a year to town, on horseback, accompanied by his terrier; but for

fear of losing it in the metropolis, he always left it in the care of his land-lady, at St. Alban's. Once, however, the house-dog of the inn and the terrier guest having a quarrel, the latter was so much over-matched, that it was with difficulty he could crawl out of the yard, and for a week no one knew what was become of him. He then returned, and brought with him a larger dog than that by which he had been beaten, when both of them fell upon the former victor, and bit him most unmercifully, leaving him half dead. The terrier and his friend again disappeared; and as all this happened while the gentleman was in London, when he called in his way home, at St. Alban's, he had the mortification to hear the above particulars, and gave up his dog for lost. On arriving at his home, however, he found his terrier safe; and, on inquiry into circumstances, was informed, that he had returned upon his being first missed from St. Alban's, and had coaxed away the great house-dog, with which he proceeded to avenge the injuries he had received, and then came home in quiet with his companion.

A terrier is well-known to the writer of this, who finding his master had dropped a guinea in a public-house, took it up unnoticed in his mouth, carried it home, and, as his owner was undressing to go to bed, dropped it into his shoe.

So much for dogs. The article has been extended to a great length, but we are not afraid that it will tire. Much more might be added, if this little volume were not intended to embrace a variety of other subjects. But while we have enlarged on the good qualities of the canine race, it should not be concealed, that they sometimes destroy those flocks which they are formed to guard; and that all the pleasure we receive from their society and services is embittered by the reflection, that they are subject to madness, which they are as ready to communicate to their benefactors, as to strangers; and against which medicine has hitherto discovered no certain antidote.

THE FOX.

THE fox is a native of every country in the globe, except, perhaps, of the hottest parts of Africa; and every where he evinces the same cunning disposition, the same eagerness after prey, and commits the same ravages among game, birds, poultry, and the smaller quadrupeds. His long bushy tail, and his rank smell, sufficiently distinguish him from other quadrupeds. Though the fox when young, may

be domesticated, and appears very familliar, as he grows older his natural wildness becomes conspicuous; and no arts of man have been able fully to tame him. Yet the fox is so nearly allied to the dog, that they have frequently been known to intermix, and to produce a breed which possesses the good and bad qualities of both.

Of all beasts of prey, reynard is esteemed the most sagacious and crafty. He provides himself an asylum where he can retire from danger, and he procures his subsistence by artifice rather than force. When circumstances allow, he fixes his residence on the border of a wood, in the vicinity of some farm or village. There he listens to the crowing of the cocks, and the crackling of poultry; he even scents them at a distance, and, taking his opportunity, he seizes them with address, and generally carries some of them off in security. Wherever he can get admission, he is sure to ravage and destroy; but he selects the silence of the night for his depredations in the farm-yard; and, as is said, will lay hold of the cock first, that he may prevent his loud clamours, while he is worrying the hens. When he has killed as many as he can reach, he retires softly with part of his prey, and returns again and again, till the approach of light, or some movements perceived in the house, warns him to retire to his den. He conceals with great

art what he is not able to carry away at once, and watches his opportunity of bringing it to his retreat, even after an interval of several days. He will cheat the fowlers, by visiting their nets or their birdlime before they are up. He hunts hares in the plains, or seizes them in their forms, and digs out the rabbits in warrens; discovers the nests of partridges and quails, seizes the dam, and sucks the eggs. In fact, he is the worst of all poachers; and though some of those who are most strenuous in the preservation of game, are equally attentive to prevent the destruction of foxes, they may be assured the two systems are incompatible, and that the strongest animal will prevail. In the Isle of Wight, where there is a penalty for introducing a fox, game perhaps is more pentiful than in any other part of the kingdom; a natural consequence of the exemption that delightful spot enjoys.

But the fox is by no means delicate in his food: when pressed by hunger, he will make war on rats, mice, serpents, lizards, and toads, and, in the destruction of these, he in some measure compensates for the injuries and depredations which he commits. He has even been known to attack bee-hives, from his love of honey; but in such an adventure he generally reaps bitters instead of sweets. In France he is very destructive among the grapes; and indeed, his predilection for this fruit has been

noticed in the scriptures. "Take us the foxes, "the little foxes, that spoil the vines; for our "vines have tender grapes."

The female fox breeds commonly but once a year, though she goes only about six weeks with young. She produces from three to six at a litter, which, like puppies, are brought forth blind. Her attachment to her offspring is ardent; and when pursued, she has been known to take up a cub in her teeth, and carry it several miles. Dr. Goldsmith relates a remarkable instance of the kind. A she-fox, attended by only one cub, was unkennelled near Chelmsford. Being hotly pursued, and the young one being unable to keep pace with her, she snatched it up in her mouth, and continued her flight. In passing through a farm-yard, however, she was attacked by the mastiff, and obliged to relinquish her young, which was picked up by the farmer. It is with pleasure we add, that the affectionate creature escaped, at last, from her savage pursuers.

In this country, fox-hunting is one of the most common amusements of the idle, the rich, and the unpolished. For the gratification of this ignoble passion, not only the poor animal is tortured, but the greatest expense is incurred, and the greatest risks frequently run. A man, who would not be at the trouble of riding half a dozen miles to save the life of a fellow creature, will frequently ride forty or fifty in pur-

suit of vermin; and, if he kills his horse as well as the fox, it adds to his silly triumph. The damage done to farmers by hunting has been calculated to amount to little less than a million sterling per annum; while the great number of horses that are kept solely for hunting, by consuming a considerable portion of the produce of the earth, increase the injury which the community receives from this diversion.

Dogs pursue the fox with great animation. In the chase, the fox not only trusts to running, in which he excels, but employs all his native cunning to elude his foes, and frequently succeeds. If, however, neither fleetness nor stratagem can avail, he defends himself with courage and bravery, and at last, resigns his breath with silent resolution.

A fox will live from twelve to fourteen years; and amidst the various dangers with which he is surrounded, perhaps enjoys existence as much as many creatures that are the favourites of mankind. His voice is a yelp rather than a bark, and in summer he is commonly silent.

THE CAT.

ANIMALS of the cat kind are ferocious in their disposition, size their prey with a spring, have sharp retractile claws, a round head, a short visage, and a rough tongue.

The domestic cat is the only animal of its genus whose services are useful to man. It has long beentaken under his protection, and in consequence of education, its manners are almost entirely changed; yet it is often capricious in its resentments, and though not incapable of attachment, its fidelity is seldom to be relied on. An inadvertent tread on its tail, cancels the obligations of years. A kitten is one of the most playful of animals; but as it grows up, the innate character of its kind begins to prevail, and it acts from fear rather than affection. Cats are lively, cleanly, delicate, and voluptuous; they are fond of ease, and always make choice of the softest of beds. The female goes fifty-six days with young, and seldom brings forth more than five or six at a time. She feeds and suckles her kittens with the greatest maternal solicitude, and when they are old enough to follow her, she introduces them to the family in which she resides, and seems to bespeak protection for

them, though it is seldom granted, farther than to save one or two of the number.

The cat has an aversion to water; she loves to bask in the sun; and is particularly affected by the smell of *valerian*, *marum*, and *cat-mint*. The mouse is her favourite game; but she will prey on rats, birds, bats, young hares, and rabbits, or whatever she can seize. She waits patiently for her prey, till her victim comes within her reach; when she bounds upon it with unerring aim, and seldom suffers it to escape from her grasp.

It is generally supposed that cats see in the dark better than in the light; but this is not absolutely the case. It is certain, however, that owing to the structure of their eyes, they can distinguish objects with much less light than most other animals; and this is the reason that they prefer the night to the day for catching their prey.

The fur of the cat is sleek and very glossy, and therefore easily electrified. When rubbed in the dark it will send forth sparks. It is fond of washing its face with its fore feet, particularly before a change of weather; and at times it diffuses a fragrant smell, somewhat like that of cloves.

Cats are extremely tenacious of life, and therefore have given rise to a proverb; yet they soon become old, and seldom reach more than ten years of age. The writer of this,

however, knew a cat which lived to be thirty-two, and within a week of its death was seen catching a mouse.

In the time of Howel Dda, Prince of Wales, who died in 948, it appears that cats were of considerable value, and consequently must have been scarce. The price of a kitten, before it could see, was fixed at a penny; till proof could be given of its having caught a mouse, at two-pence; after which it was rated at fourpence, a very considerable sum in days when specie was so scarce. As a farther proof of the estimation in which these animals were held by the Cambrian prince, as well as of the simplicity of the times, it was declared, that if any should steal or kill the cat that guarded the prince's granary, the offender was to forfeit either a milch ewe, her fleece and lamb, or as much wheat as, when poured on the cat suspended by the tail, its head touching the floor, would form a heap high enough to cover the tip of the tail.

From these circumstances it may be inferred that cats were not originally natives of these islands, and that it was thought necessary to make public regulations for the protection of the breed.

Among the Mahometans, the cat is a particular favourite; and she was the object of high veneration among the Egyptians.—"When the cat dies," says Herodotus, "all

the people of the house, where that accident has happened, shave their eye-brows, in token of sorrow; and her body is embalmed and honourably interred." In the eastern countries, indeed, the cat still enjoys a high degree of respectful protection; and we are informed, by Baumgarten, that there is a kind of hospital for them at Damascus.

Though cats in general are more attached to places than persons, there have been instances of their neither being deficient in gentleness nor gratitude. Pennant informs us that Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, the friend and companion of the Earl of Essex in his fatal insurrection, having been some time confined in the Tower, was one day surprised by a visit from his favourite cat, which, tradition says, reached his master by descending the chimney of the room in which he was lodged. Cats certainly may be taught to follow their master or mistress, like a dog; but in their every action, they seem rather to be solicitous to court favour than to return kindness. If Southampton's cat followed its master to the Tower, it was more because it missed his attentions at home, than because it felt a disposition to mitigate his sufferings by its society.

Many instances, however, may be produced of the sagacity of cats. Mr. Bingley, in his Animal Biography, gives the following: "A

friend of mine," says he, "possessed a cat and a dog, which, not being able to live together in peace, had several contentious struggles for the mastery; and, in the end, the dog so completely prevailed, that the cat was driven from the house, and forced to seek another asylum. Several months elapsed, during which the dog reigned undisputed lord. At length, however, he was poisoned by a servant, and was soon afterwards carried out lifeless, into the area before the door. The cat, from a neighbouring roof, was observed to watch the motions of several persons who went up to look at her rival, and when all were retired, she descended, and crept, with some degree of caution, into the place. At length, approaching the dog, she frequently patted him with her paw; and finding that he was no longer able to offer her injury or insult, she quietly returned to her former residence, and resumed her usual vocation."

The subsequent anecdote shews the sagacity of the cat in a still clearer light. A murder having been committed at Lyons, in 1800, on the body of a woman belonging to that city, a physician was called in to investigate the business. He found the deceased extended on the floor, and weltering in her blood. A large white cat, which it seems had been much favoured by her late mistress, was mounted on the cornice of a cupboard, at the farther end

of the apartment, where it seemed to have taken refuge, and sat with looks expressive of horror and affright, having its eyes fixed on the corpse.

The following morning, the cat was found in the same situation and attitude; and though the room was filled with officers of justice, and the clamour and conversation were very loud, nothing could in the smallest degree divert its attention. As soon, however, as the persons suspected of the murder were brought in, the eyes of the cat glared with increased fury; its hair bristled; and, darting into the middle of the room, it took a momentary gaze at them, and then retired under the bed. The assassins, conscious of guilt, began to be disconcerted, and, for the first time, their audacity seemed to forsake them. In this instance, the cat proved an auxiliary to justice: it probably witnessed the catastrophe, and its behaviour divulged the atrocious deed.

The maternal tenderness of this race of animals is the object of admiration to every observer of nature; but it is not only to her own offspring that the cat will shew kindness. In discharging the duties of a mother, if her own young are destroyed or removed, she will rear a supposititious brood. White, of Selborne, gives instances of a cat rearing a leveret, three young squirrels, and even of forming an at-

tachment for a rat which had accidentally been thrown under her protection.

The writer of this has seen a cat suckling squirrels with the fondest regard; the sight was unnatural, but, on both sides, the affection seemed to be sincere.

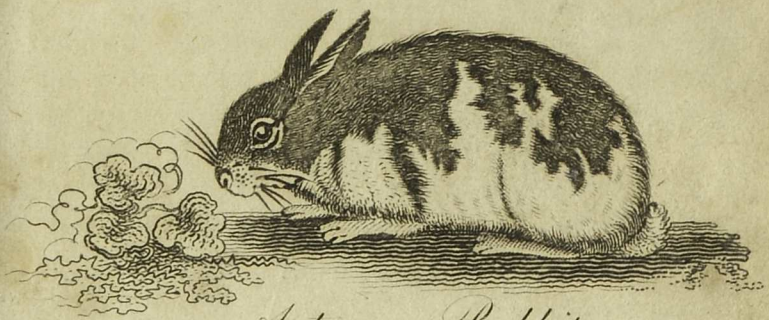
THE HARE.

The hare is one of the most innocent and the most timid of all quadrupeds; it is surrounded with enemies, yet itself is an enemy to nothing that lives, as it subsists entirely on vegetable food.

The hare is so well known as to require no description of its form. A full-sized one will weigh about eight pounds; and it is said that, in the Isle of Man, they have grown to the weight of twelve pounds.

This animal inhabits all parts of Europe, and, indeed, most of the temperate and cold climates throughout the world. In our own country, it is considered as game, and therefore is protected by various laws; but these, so far from being its defence, only expose it to clandestine violence, from those who have no interest in its preservation, though frequently they are at the expence of maintaining it.

A wild Rabbit



A tame Rabbit

A Hare

London Published by Tabart & Co. Aug 7-1804.

The hare is so watchful and timid that it is always lean, yet its flesh is highly esteemed by the moderns; and we find it was so among many of the ancients, though it was a forbidden food among the aboriginal Britons. Its fore legs being shortest, it always runs swifter up hill than on even ground; and, therefore, if pursued, it generally takes to rising grounds. It frequently keeps all day in its form, and only goes abroad to feed by night. Its eyes are so prominent, that it sees behind as well as before, and, if disturbed, after various doublings, will return to the same place from whence it set out.

Hares breed several times in the year; the female suckles her young about three weeks, and then leaves them to provide for themselves.

Were it not for the amazing fecundity of these animals, the breed would probably long ere now have been extinct. Beasts of prey, licensed sportsmen, hunters, poachers, are all busied in thinning its numbers; yet, except when the season has been peculiarly unfavourable, no general deficiency is perceived.

They are supposed to live about seven years, and the males reach a greater degree of longevity than the females. They pass their days in solitude and silence, except that they occasionally assemble by moon-light, and sport together, when they think themselves safe from

annoyance. But a falling leaf disturbs them, and instead of seeking security from union, they scamper off in different directions. Their pace is a kind of gallop, or quick succession of leaps; and they are so extremely swift, and possess so many arts of eluding pursuit, that they frequently escape their enemies. The more they have been hunted, the more sagacity they evince, and the greater sport they furnish to those who receive delight from patient suffering. Yet humanity must disclaim all unnecessary cruelty. If animals must be destroyed, let it be done by the quickest mode, and with the least previous torture:

Poor is the triumph o'er the timid hare!
Yet vain its best precaution: tho' she sits
Conceal'd with folded ears, unsleeping eyes,
By nature rais'd to take th' horizon in;
And head conceal'd between her hairy feet,
In act to spring away. The scented dew
Betrays her early labyrinth; and deep
In scatter'd sullen openings, far behind,
With ev'ry breeze, she hears the coming storm:
But, nearer and more frequent, as it leads
The sighing gale, she springs amaz'd, and all
The savage soul of game is up at once.

The voice of a hare is never heard, except when it is seized or wounded, and then it resembles the human. Though easily tamed, it seldom acquires any considerable degree of attachment, and in general watches the first

opportunity of recovering its liberty. Yet it is not destitute of docility: it has been taught to beat a drum, and to perform gestures in cadence.

Dr. Townson informs us, that he took much pains with a young hare, and rendered it uncommonly familiar. In the evening it would become so frolicsome as to run and jump about his sofa and bed. Sometimes in its play it would leap upon him, and pat him with its fore-feet, or, while reading, it would knock the book out of his hand; but whenever a stranger entered the room, it always exhibited considerable symptoms of alarm.

Mr. Borlase mentions a hare that was so tame and domestic, as to lie under a chair in the sitting-room like a lap-dog, walk into the garden to regale itself, and then return to the house as its proper habitation. Its usual companions were a greyhound and a spaniel, both very fond of hunting; yet they never molested their comrade, though it always slept on the same hearth, and frequently laid itself upon them.

THE RABBIT.

This well-known animal is diffused, either in a wild or a tame state over all the temperate and warm parts of Europe, and even the hottest regions of Asia and Africa. It is not, however, originally of British extraction, though it has been long naturalized here, and is found extremely productive. In Sweden, and other northern countries, it will not live, unless taken under the protection of man. Heat, indeed, is its delight; and in the warm climates of the western hemisphere, it has increased prodigiously, since it was first introduced there by the Spaniards.

The colour of the wild rabbit is brown, with a tail black above and white beneath; but when domesticated, it assumes every hue from black to white. In a state of nature, rabbits burrow in the ground, where they bring forth their young. Their fecundity is astonishing, as they frequently breed seven times a year, and generally produce seven or eight at a time. Were this to go on regularly for four years, the progeny from a single pair would amount to upwards of twelve hundred thousand.

But, prolific as they are, there is no danger of the earth being over-stocked with them.

Numbers of them are destroyed by man, for food, and still more by beasts and birds of prey. Their enemies, indeed, are various, while, on their part, they injure nothing that breathes.

Rabbits live to the age of eight or nine years. The female goes about thirty days with young. A short time previous to her bringing forth, she provides herself a hole made in a zigzag direction, with a receptacle, at the extremity of larger dimentions, which she lines with hair torn from her own body. For the two first days she scarcely ever leaves her young; and when necessity drives her abroad for food, she quickly satisfies her hunger, and returns to her charge, which she carefully conceals from the male, lest he should devour them. At the end of a month, her offspring can provide for themselves; and notwithstanding the unnatural propensity of the buck to destroy them in their nascent state, no sooner are they brought to the mouth of the hole, than he takes them between his paws, smooths their fur, and caresses them with marked affection.

A French gentleman, who long amused himself with rearing rabbits, and observing their manners, remarked that the young paid great deference to their first father, and that, on any appearance of danger, he always put himself at their head, and stood at the mouth

of the hole, till his company had retired. As these animals, indeed, live in societies under ground, they have a singular method of giving alarm, by thumping with one of their hind feet, which produces a hollow sound, that may be heard a considerable way. This instinct is kindly given, to enable them to escape from some of their numerous enemies; and we find it invariably exerted on every emergency.

Rabbits, in warrens, keep much in their holes during the middle of the day, and seldom come abroad to feed, except in the mornings and evenings. It is then that the warrener watches for them, and catches as many as his demands require, and the stock under his controul will allow. The flesh though forbidden to the Jews and Mahometans, is a favourite dish with most people; and the skin is a considerable article of commerce. The fur in particular is a valuable article in the hat manufacture.

Tame rabbits are larger than wild ones. Sensible of the protection they enjoy, they never dig holes for their retreats. Their flesh however, is less esteemed; and, unless they are kept clean, and carefully fed, they are liable to several destructive diseases.

THE SQUIRREL.

The squirrel is a light, nimble, and elegant creature. It climbs trees with the greatest agility, and by its sportive bounds, from branch to branch, enlivens our paths and forests, and contributes to the general beauty of the scene.

The ears of the common squirrel are terminated with long tufts of hair, and its tail is long and very bushy. The uniform colour of the body is a bright reddish brown, but the breast and belly are white. Sometimes, however, a variety is seen in England, with a milk white tail; but whether this arises from accident or from nature, has not been clearly ascertained.

The species inhabits Europe, North America, and the northern and temperate regions of Asia. In Sweden and Lapland, however, the colour changes to grey in the winter season. It lives on woodland fruits, acorns, nuts, and the mast of beech; and, in eating, sits erect, holding its food in its fore-paws.

Though naturally wild and timid, the squirrel is soon reconciled to confinement, and becomes very docile and frolicsome; but if provoked, it will bite with severity even the hand that feeds it. It may be taught several amus-

ing tricks; and the beauty of its form, and the vivacity of its motions, conspire, with its docility, to render it a favourite with young persons, who frequently doom it to the captivity of a cage.

In a state of nature, the squirrel seldom descends to the ground, except during a storm, but continues leaping from one tree to another. It never leaves its food to chance; but in summer and autumn, secures, in the hollow of some tree, its magazine of nuts, providentially looking forward to the dreary season which shall strip the forests both of their fruits and their foliage. It makes its principal excursions by night, and shews the greatest activity in the spring; lying by in the heat of the day, as if the powerful rays of the sun were disagreeable.

It generally constructs its nest among the large branches of a great tree, where they begin to fork off into small ones. After selecting the particular spot, it begins, with great judgment, to level the foundation as far as it is able, and then, collecting moss, twigs, and dry leaves, it forms them into a mass sufficiently strong to resist the most violent storm. The entrance is by an aperture at the top, and this is so contrived, that the rain is excluded by means of a canopy; and the little animal can enjoy itself in its bed, independent of the weather.

A Pug Dog

A Cat

A Squirrel

The winter, stores are seldom found in the nest, but are most commonly deposited in the hollow of the tree, with abundant care, and never touched, except when the animal is unable to go abroad to seek for fresh supplies. Thus a single tree serves both for a retreat and a store-house; and without quitting it during the winter, the squirrel possesses all the comforts that its nature is capable of receiving. Like every other creature, however, it has its enemies to contend with. Inhuman boys frequently hunt it, by way of amusement; and the martin not only plunders it of its young, but sometimes dispossesses it of its nest.

The female brings forth four or five at a time, and that only once a year.

The vigilance of the squirrel is extreme: if the tree in which it lodges is but touched at the bottom, it immediately takes the alarm, and flies off to another, thus proceeding from tree to tree, though the distance may be forty feet. If obliged to descend, it runs up the side of another tree with surprising agility, and will take the rounds of a forest, by means impractible to any other quadruped.

This animal seldom makes any noise, except when it expresses its sense of pain or pleasure. When it is hurt, it utters a sharp piercing note; and when it is pleased, it makes a kind of purring sound, not unlike that of a cat.

When squirrels are disposed to cross a lake or a river, which has been frequently noticed in Lapland, they collect pieces of bark, on which each seats itself, as if in a boat, and arises its tail for a sail. In calm water they proceed without difficulty, but should they meet with a current or a gust of wind, the miserable mariners are chiefly lost, and the natives make a prey of their skins, which sell for a good price.

THE NORWAY OR BROWN RAT.

This animal, which made its appearance among us some time in the last century, and probably came from the East Indies, though it bears the name of another country, has greatly reduced our native race, but has itself multiplied so excessively, as to be an infinitely greater pest than what it has assisted to destroy.

These creatures, being amphibious, during summer, reside chiefly in holes on the banks of rivers, ponds and ditches; but on the approach of winter, they frequent farm-houses, and enter the corn-stacks and barns, where they commit the most vexing depredations.

From old houses it is almost impossible to extirpate them; and such is their fecundity, that they produce from ten to eighteen at a litter, and this thrice a year.

In short, they would speedily destroy the fruits of the earth, and the labours of man, were not their baneful increase counteracted by the numerous enemies among other animals, as well as by their destroying and eating each other. An old rat is as much dreaded by its own species, as the whole race is dreaded by other creatures that are their natural prey. Indeed, every thing that does not possess superior strength, is obliged to submit to the brown rat. The frog, which had been purposely introduced into Ireland, that it might assist to destroy insects, has been almost exterminated by this voracious animal; and, as the means of subsistence has become more difficult, it is now obliged to prey on its own species; and both the victor and the vanquished will probably soon be on a ballance.

All the stronger carniverous animals have a natural antipathy to rats. Dogs, cats, and weasels, pursue them with alacrity, and attack them with animosity. Thus, Providence has wisely ordained that these pernicious creatures should be kept within bounds, either by their own rapacity, or by the enmity of other kinds.

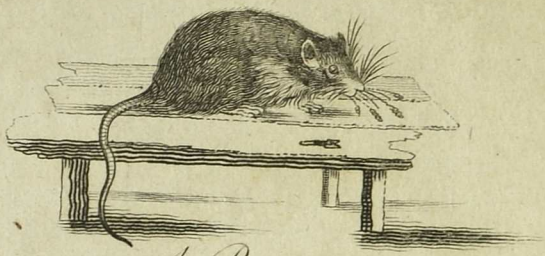
A rat, however, will sometimes sell its life

very dear. They have been known to attack a small dog, seize him by the lip, and inflict a wound deep, and difficult to be cured.

According to St. Pierre, rats once swarmed to such a prodigious degree in the Isle of France, that the Dutch were glad to abandon it. In some houses, they were so numerous, that 30,000 have been killed in a year; and the havoc they made among the fruits of the earth was beyond description. In a night's time, they would strip a field of maize of its last ear; nor was any thing secure from their rapacity.

But it is not only on land that rats commit such depredations. On shipboard they are equally destructive. When the Valiant man of war returned from the Havannah, in 1766, the rats had increased to such a degree, that they devoured daily a hundred weight of biscuit. They were at length suffocated, and six hampers were for some time filled every day with the rats that had been thus destroyed.

It is said that they will instinctively leave a falling house and a sinking ship. In conformity to this idea, a clown, who had taken his passage from Bristol to America, some few years ago, in a very leaky vessel, and who was possessed with the belief that she would never reach the port, hearing a rat one night as he lay in his hammock, jumped up in an ecstacy of joy, and running upon deck, exclaimed, "a



A Rat

A Mouse

A Mole

London, Publish'd by Tabart & Co. Aug. 7 - 1804.

"rat, a rat!" as much as to say, "we are now safe, the rats have not deserted us."

There are various methods of destroying rats; but, so great is their cunning, that it is no easy matter to entrap they, or to allure them to swallow poison. A whimsical, and, as it is said, an effectual mode, however, of clearing a house of these vermin, has been recorded:—An old rat being caught, has a bell tied round his neck, and is then turned loose. His companions, alarmed at the noise of the bell, fly wherever he pursues, and at last finding plenty of food, he frequents his old haunts, from which his brethren have been expelled by fear.

Kempfer tells us that they tame rats in Japan, and teach them to perform many entertaining tricks; but, to most persons, a rat is so very disgusting, that amusement from such a source would be thought impossible.

THE WATER RAT.

THE water rat is less than the brown, but larger than the black species. It has a blunt thick nose, ears hid in fur, and its head and

body covered with long black hair, mixed with ferruginous.

This animal is a native of Europe, the North of Asia, and America. In form it bears some resemblance to the beaver, and is extremely dexterous in diving and swimming. It burrows in the banks of rivers, ponds, and ditches, feeding on fry and small fishes, frogs, insects, and roots. As a swimmer and diver, it excels: but frequently in pursuit of its prey, it is snapped up by the more voracious pike, "the tyrant of the watery plain."

This animal, however, is the least destructive and forbidding of its tribe, and therefore may be tolerated if it merits not protection.

THE DORMOUSE.

THE dormouse is an elegant little creature, and therefore is sometimes taken under the care of man. It has full black eyes; the ears are round and thick; and the tail, which is two inches and a half long, is pretty hairy towards the extremity. The body is about the size of the common mouse, but is rather more plump; and the colour is a red tawny, except in the throat, where it is white.

This animal is a native of almost every part of Europe. It generally builds its nest near the bottom of a thick hedge, either with moss or the leaves of trees, subsisting principally on nuts, which it eats in a kind of erect posture, after the manner of the squirrel.

At the commencement of winter, it rolls itself up in its retreat, where it lies in a torpid state, till revived by the genial heat of the returning spring. Sometimes, however, when the weather proves unusually mild in the season, or when it is brought near a fire, it will recover its vital energies; but the exciting cause being removed, it soon relapses into its former insensibility.

THE COMMON MOUSE.

This species is so well-known, that its form needs no description. It is a timid, cautious, active little creature, and so entirely domestic, that it is never found in the fields, or where the country is uninhabited by man. Fearful by nature, but familiar from necessity, it attends on the human race, and except in searching for its food, seldom quits its retreat. It may, however, be tamed to a certain degree;

but it never loses its natural apprehensions, nor discovers any attachment to its benefactors.

Wholly incapable of resistance, it is surrounded with enemies. The cat, the snake, the owl, the weasel, the rat, destroy this mild race by millions; and were it not for their amazing fecundity, the breed must long since have been extirpated. The mouse, indeed, breeds at all seasons, and produces six or seven at a time, which, in less than a fortnight, are able to shift for themselves. Aristotle gives us an idea of the astonishing prolific quality of this creature, by informing us, that, having put a pregnant mouse into a vessel of corn, he shortly after found a hundred and twenty, all sprung from the original stock.

These little animals, which live only about two or three years, are by no means disagreeable; and while the rat is the object of universal detestation and abhorrence, the mouse is beheld with indifference, if not with pleasure.

THE HEDGEHOG.

THOUGH the hedgehog has a formidable appearance, no creature can be more harmless. All its precautions are directed only to its own security, and it is armed at a thousand points, not to invade, but to repel an enemy. While other animals trust to their force, their cunning, or their swiftness, the hedgehog has only one expedient for its safety, and that is generally sufficient. As soon as it perceives itself attacked, it withdraws all its vulnerable parts, rolls itself up into a kind of ball, and presents nothing but its spines to the foe.

The head, back, and sides, indeed, of this animal are covered with sharp prickles, about an inch long, and very sharp pointed, and from these it derives its defensive armour. The other parts of its body are either naked or covered with fine soft hair; but it possesses the power of altering its whole figure, and of presenting a roundish mass of spines, impervious on every side. The cat, the weasel, the ferret, and the martin, soon decline the combat, and even the dog generally makes his attacks in vain. In attempting to bite, he more frequently receives than gives a wound, and, at length, is obliged to leave the innofensive ani-

mal where he found it; which, perceiving itself free from danger, ventures to peep from under its covering, and if not again interrupted, advances deliberately to its retreat.

Like most wild animals, the hedgehog spends the best part of the day in sleep, and shews the greatest activity during the night. It generally lodges in small thickets, in hedges, or in ditches covered with bushes, making a a hole about six or eight inches deep, which it lines with moss, grass, or leaves. It feeds on roots, fruits, weeds, and worms, and is falsely, according to some naturalists, charged with sucking cows, and wounding their udders. The smallness of its mouth indeed seems to exculpate it from actually milking large quadrupeds; but the writer of this has seen evident marks of its attempts, and believes that it has an instinctive taste for this pursuit.

The hedgehog has also been accused of robbing gardens and orchards of their fruits; but this charge is certainly brought without any solid foundation. If kept in a garden, they never attempt to climb trees, nor even to stick fallen fruit on their spines, but only lay hold of their food with their mouth. Mr. White noticed the manner in which they eat the roots of the plantain. With their upper jaw, which is much larger than the lower, they bore under the plant, and gnaw the root off upwards, leaving the tuft of leaves untouched. In

this respect they are serviceable, as they destroy a troublesome weed; and though they are too frequently ill-treated, by wanton folly, they are in their several habits so perfectly innoxious, that they rather deserve protection than annoyance.

The hedgehog, indeed, may be rendered tame to a considerable degree; and it has frequently been introduced into dwelling-houses, for the purpose of expelling the blattæ, or cock-roaches, which it pursues with avidity, and feeds on with peculiar fondness. Among the Calmuc Tartars, it is kept instead of a cat, and in some respects, answers the same purpose.

We are told, that, a few years ago, the landlord of the Angel Inn at Felton, in Northumberland, kept a hedgehog which answered to the name of *Tom*, and which performed the duty of a turnspit, as well as the dogs of that denomination. It ran about the house familiarly, and displayed a docility that astonished every spectator. Buffon made several experiments on those creatures, and gives an interesting account of some of their habits. With all the pains he took, however, he never could induce them to propagate their kind in a state of captivity, and he found that the female would even devour her own young, when confined, as if she disdained to rear a race of slaves.

The hedgehog is pretty generally diffused over Europe and Madagascar. In winter, it wraps itself up in a warm nest, and sleeps out the rigour of the season. In this state it is sometimes so completely encircled with herbage, that it resembles a ball of dried leaves; but when taken out and placed before the fire, it soon recovers from its state of torpidity. Like all other animals that lie dormant in winter, its blood is cold; and its flesh, though generally rejected as an article of human food, is nevertheless said by some to be a peculiar dainty. The ancients used the skin by way of a clothes brush.

The female produces four or five young ones at a birth. These at first are white, and have only the rudiments of spines. They are lodged in a large nest, composed principally of moss, and soon acquire the full size.

THE COMMON BAT.

The bat tribe, of which we have four species, seem to occupy a middle station between quadrupeds and birds; but though at a first glance they may seem more nearly allied to the former than the latter, it is only in their

power of raising themselves into the air, by means of membranes that extend their body, that they have any resemblance to birds. Like quadrupeds, they bring forth their young alive and suckle them; their lungs, their intestines are formed in a similar manner; and humiliating as it may appear, in some respects they so nearly approximate the human conformation, that Linnæus has placed them in the very first rank of animated nature.

The common bat is about the size of a mouse, or nearly two inches and a half long. The body is covered with a short fur of a mouse colour, tinged with red; the eyes are small, and the ears exactly resemble those of a mouse. The members, usually called wings, are merely the four interior toes of the fore feet, extended to an enormous length, and connected by a thin membrane, capable of being contracted at pleasure, reaching also to the hind legs, and from them to the tail. The first toe is entirely loose and flexile, serving as a heel when the bat walks, or as a hook when it is desirous of adhering to any thing. The hind feet are disengaged from the surrounding skin, and divided into five toes, furnished with sharp claws.

This little animal makes its appearance early in the summer evenings, and flies about in quest of its prey, with a laborious undulating motion. It principally frequents the sides of

woods, glades, and shady walks; but it also skims along the surface of rivers and lakes, or wherever it can find gnats, moths, and other nocturnal insects. If it happens in its flight to strike against any object, and falls to the ground, it is caught with facility. It pursues its prey with open mouth, and when satisfied, retires to its habitation, which is commonly the chink of a ruined building, or the trunk of a tree. There it sleeps away the greatest part of the day, even in summer, never venturing abroad by day-light, or in rainy weather; but as soon as winter sets in, it becomes wholly torpid, and remains in that state till the return of spring.

On its first perceiving the approaching cold weather, the bat seems rather to select a place where it may remain in a lifeless inactivity, during the winter, without interruption, than where it may be warmly or conveniently lodged. Hence it is frequently seen hanging by its hooked claws to the roof of a cave, regardless of the surrounding damps.—This, indeed, seems to be the most eligible situation, as the occasional warm rays of the sun are excluded, and the animal is consequently allowed to enjoy its long sleep, without being prematurely revived; which is often the case, when its hiding-place is exposed to the external air, during a mild winter, or when the sun shines with unusual warmth on its abode.

Thus, Nature wisely provides for all her children, by removing the necessity of food, when it is not to be procured; or, by enabling such as are not destined to be torpid, to migrate into countries where the supply of provisions is equal to the demands of life.

The bat brings forth her young, in sūmmer, generally from two to five at a time. She has two nipples, placed forward on the breast, as in the human kind, to which her offspring adhere, and drain the milky juice. It is remarkable, however, that she makes no nest; but, sticking herself, by her hooks, against the sides of her apartment, she permits her young to hang at the breast till she begins to grow hungry, when she sticks her little ones in the same manner, against the wall, to which they immediately cling, and patiently wait her return.

The bat, like the mouse, is capable of being reclaimed to a certain degree; and we are told by Mr. White, that he was once much amused by the sight of one that had been domesticated. "It would take," says he, "flies out of a person's hand. If you gave it any thing to eat, it brought its wings before its mouth, hovering, and hiding its head, in the manner of birds of prey when they feed. The adroitness it shewed in shearing off the wings of flies, which were always rejected, was worthy of observation, and pleased me

much. Insects seemed to be most acceptable, though it did not refuse raw flesh, when offered; so that the notion, that bats go down chimnies and gnaw people's bacon, seems no improbable story. While I amused myself with this wonderful quadruped, I saw it several times confute the vulgar opinion, that bats, when down on a flat surface, cannot get on the wing again, by rising with great ease, from the floor. It ran, I observed, with more dispatch than I was aware of, but in a most rediculous and grotesque manner."

Bats may be caught by throwing into the air the heads of burdock, whitened with flour, which they either mistake for prey, or dashing casually against them, are caught by the hooked prickles, and brought to the ground. The bat, however, in this country, is such an innocent and inoffensive creature, that it would be wanton cruelty to injure it. The general tenor of its industry is to pursue insects, of which it diminishes the number; while its evening flight amuses the imagination, and adds one figure more to the pleasing group of animated nature. In the warmer climates, however, both of the eastern and the western world, bats are truly formidable; each of them singly is a dangerous enemy; but when united in flocks, they become dreadful.

Having thus finished the description of Domestic Quadrupeds, we shall just observe, that, in former times, the Wolf and the Bear would have been included in our enumeration, though they are now fortunately extinct. The last wolf was killed in Scotland, by Sir Ewin Cameron, about the year 1680; and bears are known to have continued in that part of the island till 1057, when Malcolm III. permitted a Gordon to carry three bears' heads in his banner, for his prowess in destroying one, that had made great ravages in the country.

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