THE

YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR,

IN

NATURAL HISTORY.

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IN SEVEN NUMBERS.

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Fig. 137

BUFFALO

Fig. 138

BISON

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NATURAL HISTORY.

THE BUFFALO.

If we compare the buffalo with our common cow, no two animals can be more nearly alike, either in their form or their nature; both equally submissive to the yoke, both often living under the same roof, and employed in the same domestic services; the make and the turn of their bodies so much alike, that it requires a close attention to distinguish them; and yet, after all this, no two animals can be more distinct, or seem to have stronger antipathies to each other. Were there but one of each kind remaining, it is probable the race of both would very soon become extinct; for, such is the fixed aversion formed between these creatures, that the cow refuses to breed with the buffalo, which it nearly resembles; while it

is known to propagate with the bison, to which it has, in point of form, but a very distant similitude.

The buffalo is, upon the whole, by no means so beautiful a creature as the cow; his figure is more clumsy and awkward; his air is wilder; and he carries his head lower, and nearer the ground; his limbs are less fleshy, and his tail more destitute of hair; his body is shorter and thicker than that of the cow kind; his legs are higher; his head smaller; his horns not so round, but black, and compressed, with a bunch of curled hair hanging down between them; his skin is also harder and thicker, more black, and less furnished with hair; his flesh, which is hard and blackish, is not only disagreeable to the taste, but likewise to the smell.

THE BISON.

The general appearance of the Bison is by no means attractive or prepossessing, his

huge and shapeless form being altogether devoid of grace and beauty. The fore part of his body is clothed with long shaggy hair, forming a well marked beard beneath the lower jaw, and descending behind the knee in a tuft. This hair rises on the top of the head in a dense mass, nearly as high as the extremity of the horns. Over the forehead it is closely curled, and matted so thickly as to deaden the force of a rifle ball. The eye is small, black, and brilliant; the horns are black and very thick near the head, whence they curve upwards and outwards, rapidly tapering towards their points. The head of the bison is large and ponderous, compared to the size of the body; so that the muscles for its support, necessarily of great size, give great thickness to the neck, and by their origin form the prolonged dorsal vertebral process form the peculiar projection called the *hump*. This hump is of an oblong form, diminishing in height as it recedes, so as to give considerable obliquity to the line of the back. The colour of the hair is uniformly dun, but the long hair on the anterior parts

of the body is, to a certain extent, tinged with a rusty yellow.

The bison cow bears the same resemblance to the bull that is borne by the domestic cow to her mate.

Their sense of smelling is remarkably acute. They form in large herds, usually led by a bull most remarkable for strength and fierceness, and wander over the country in search of food. The flesh of the bison is equally savoury with that of the domestic ox as an article of food, and the hump is particularly famed for its peculiar richness and delicacy.

THE BULL.

In stature the Bull equals the horse, but he is much stronger made in all parts of his body, particularly about the neck and head; his horns are thick and large, and when enraged, he gores and tosses both man and beast. This animal is very short lived for

Fig. 20

BULL

Fig. 21

COW

his size and strength, seldom exceeding sixteen years.

The Ox, the sheep, and those other animals which feed on grass, are the best, the most useful, and the most valuable for man; since they not only nourish him, but consume and cost him least: the Ox, above all the rest, is the most excellent in this respect, for he gives as much to the earth as he takes from it, and even enriches the ground on which he lives: instead of which, the horse, and the greatest part of other animals, in a few years impoverish the best pasture-land.

Oxen, like other domestic animals, differ in colour; but red appears the most common, and the redder they are, the more they are esteemed. It is said, that Oxen of a bay colour last longest; that those of a brown colour are sooner fatigued and shorter lived; that the gray, brindle, and white are not proper for work, and only fit to be fatted for slaughter; but whatever colour the coat of the Ox is of, it should be shining, thick, and soft to the touch; for if it is rough and uneven, we have reason to think that the

animal is not well, or, at least, that he is not of a strong constitution.

The dullest and most idle animals are not those which sleep the soundest or the longest; the Ox sleeps, but his sleep is short, and not very sound; for he awakes at the least noise: he usally lies on his left side and that kidney is always larger and fatter than the kidney on the right side.

In those species of animals which man has formed into flocks, and where the multiplication is the principal object, the female is more necessary, more useful than the male. The produce of the Cow is a benefit which grows, and which is renewed every instant; the flesh of the calf is healthy and delicate; the milk is the food of children; butter relishes the greatest part of our victuals, and cheese is the common food of the country people. How many poor families are, in some countries, reduced to live on their Cow! There is scarce a part of the world in which this animal is not found in some of its varieties.

Fig. 18

HORSE

Fig. 19

ASS

THE HORSE.

Of all the quadruped animals, the horse seems the most beautiful; the stateliness of his form, the glossy smoothness of his skin, the graceful ease of his motions, and the exact symmetry of his shape, have taught us to regard him as the first, and as the most perfectly formed. To have an idea of this noble animal in his native simplicity, we are not to look for him in the pastures or the stables, to which he has been consigned by man: but in those wild and extensive plains where he has been originally produced; where he ranges without controul, and riots in all the variety of luxurious Nature. In this state of happy independence, he disdains the assistance of man, which only tends to servitude. In those boundless and ever blooming tracts, whether of Africa or New Spain, where he runs at

liberty, he seems no way incommoded with the inconveniences to which he is subject in a domestic state. The continual verdure of the fields amply supplies his wants; and the climate, that never knows a winter, suits his constitution, which naturlly seems adapted to heat. His enemies of the forest are but few, for none but the greater kinds will venture to atack him ; any one of these he is singly able to overcome ; while, at the same time, he is content to find safety in society ; for the wild horses of those countries always herd together.

In his domesticated state, this spirited and haughty animal shares with man the fatigues of war, and the glory of the combat. Equally intrepid as his master, the Horse sees the danger, and braves it ; inspired at the clash of arms, he loves it, he seeks it, and is animated with the same ardour. He feels pleasure also in the chase, in tournaments, in the course : he is all fire, but equally tractable as courageous ; he not only submits to the arm which guides him, but even seems to consult the desires of his rider ; and,

always obedient to the impressions which he receives from him, presses on, moves gently, or stops, and only acts as his rider pleases. The Horse, who attains his full growth in four years, lives six or seven times as long, that is to say, twenty-five or thirty years.

THE ASS.

THE Ass differs materially from the horse, in the smallness of the size, largeness of the head, length of the ears, hardness of the skin, nakedness of the tail, the form of the rump, and also in the voice, the appetite, manner of drinking, &c.

He is naturally as humble, patient, and quiet, as the horse is proud, ardent, and impetuous; he suffers with constancy, and perhaps with courage, chastisement and blows; he is moderate both as to the quantity and quality of his food; he is contented with the hardest and most disagreeable herbs, which the horse, and other animals, will leave with

disdain; he is very delicate with respect to his water, for he will drink none but the clearest, and from rivulets which he is acquainted with; he drinks as moderately as he eats, and does not put his nose in the water (through fear, as some say, of the shadow of his ears;) he fears to wet his feet, and will turn out of his road to avoid the mud; his legs are also drier and cleaner than the horse; he is susceptible of education, and some have been seen sufficiently disciplined to be made a show of.

In their earliest youth, they are sprightly, and even handsome; they are light and genteel; but either from age or bad treatment, they soon lose their beauty, and become slow, indocile, and headstrong. The Ass is also strongly attached to his master, notwithstanding he is usually ill treated; he will smell him afar off, and can distinguish him from all other men; he also knows the places where he has lived, and the ways which he has frequented: his eyes are good, and his smell acute; his ears are excellent, which has also contributed to his being numbered

among timid animals, all of which it is pretended have the hearing extremely delicate, and the ears long. When he is overloaded, he shows it by lowering his head and bending down his ears; when he is greatly abused, he opens his mouth, and draws back his lips in a most disagreeable manner, which gives him an air of derision and scorn.

The Ass is three or four years in growing, and lives twenty-five or thirty years. They sleep less than the horse, and do not lie down to sleep unless when quite tired.

The milk of the Ass, is an approved and specific remedy for certain complaints, and its use was known from the Greeks to us: that it may be good in its kind, we should choose a young healthy she Ass, full of flesh, which has lately foaled, care must be taken to feed her well with hay, wheat, and grass, with particular care not to let the milk cool, and not even to expose it to the air, which will spoil it in a little time.

The Ass is, perhaps, with respect to himself, the animal which can carry the greatest weight; and as it costs but little to feed him,

and he scarcely requires any care, he is of great use in the country, at the mill, &c.; he also serves to ride on, as all his paces are gentle, and he stumbles less than the horse; he is frequently put to the plough, in countries where the earth is light, and his dung is an excellent manure to enrich hard, moist lands.

The ass possesses in great perfection the power of finding his way home, when lost at a great distance.

THE SHEEP.

This animal, in its domestic state, is too well known to require a detail of its peculiar habits, or of the arts which have been used to improve the breed. Among the degenerate descendants of the wild sheep, there have been so many changes wrought, as entirely to disguise the kind, and often to mislead the observer. The variety is so great that scarce any two countries has its sheep of the same

Fig 22

RAM

Fig. 23

EWE

kind, but there is found a manifest difference in all, either in the size, the covering, the shape, or the horns.

When transported into warmer countries, either into Florida or Guinea, it loses its wool, and assumes a covering fitted to the climate, becoming hairy and rough; it there also loses its fertility, and its flesh no longer has the same flavour. In the same manner, in the very cold countries, it seems equally helpless and a stranger; it still requires the unceasing attention of mankind for its preservation; and although it is found to subsist, as well in Greenland as in Guinea, yet it seems a natural inhabitant of neither.

The broad tailed sheep of Tartary, Arabia, Persia, Barbary, Syria, and Egypt, forms another variety. This sheep is only remarkable for its large and heavy tail, which is often found to weigh from twenty to thirty pounds. It sometimes grows a foot broad, and is obliged to be supported by a small kind of board, that goes upon wheels. This tail is not covered underneath with wool, like the upper part, but is bare; and the natives, who

consider it as a very great delicacy, are very careful in attending and preserving it from injury.

The Guinea sheep, which is generally found in all the tropical climates, both of Africa and the East-Indies, are of a large size, with a rough, hairy skin, short horns, and ears hanging down, with a kind of dewlap under the chin. They differ greatly in form from the rest; and might be considered as animals of another kind, were they not known to breed with other sheep. These, of all the domestic kinds, seem to approach the nearest to the state of nature. They are larger, stronger, and swifter than the common race; and, consequently, better fitted for the precarious forest life. However, they seem to rely, like the rest, on man for support; being entirely of a domestic nature, and subsisting only in the warmer climates.

At one year old, sheep lose the two front teeth of the inferior jaw; and almost every one knows that they have no incisive teeth in the superior jaw; at eighteen months old, the two neighbouring teeth of the two first

Fig. 141

BARBARY WEDDER

Fig. 142

RAM OF TUNIS

that fell, fall also; and, at three years old, they are all replaced; they are then even, and tolerably white; but, in proportion as the animal becomes older, they become uneven and black. The age of the ram is also known by his horns, which show themselves in the first year, and frequently from the birth; they grow every year a ring, which is a mark round, and continue growing till death. Most commonly, the sheep have no horns; but they have bony prominences on their heads, in the same part where the horns of the rams grow; there are, notwithstanding, some sheep which have two, and even four horns. These sheep are like the others; their horns are five or six inches long, but less turned than those of the ram; and when there are four horns, the two exterior ones are shorter than the two others.

In dry soils, and in high grounds, where wild thyme and other odoriferous herbs abound, the flesh of the sheep is of a much better quality than when it is fed in low plains and humid valleys, unless these plains are sandy and near the sea; because then

all the herbs imbibe a saltness, and the flesh of mutton is no where so good as in these salt meadows.

The operation of sheep-shearing is performed once a year. In France it is performed in the month of May, after the sheep have been well washed, in order to make the wool as clean as possible. In April it would be too cold; and if they were to wait till the months of June and July, there would not be time enough for the wool to grow during the summer, to preserve them from the cold in the winter. The wool of ewes is usually better, and in greater abundance, than that of wethers; that on the neck, and the top of the back, is the best; that on the thighs, the belly, the tail, the throat, &c. is not so good; and that taken from beasts which are sick or dead is the worst: that which is white is preferable to gray, brown, or black, because in dyeing it will take any colour. For the quality, that which is smooth is better than that which is frizzled; it is also said, that sheep whose wool is frizzled are not so healthy as others.

Fig. 27

SHE GOAT

Fig. 26

HE GOAT

THE GOAT.

THE Goat seems, in every respect, more fitted for a life of savage liberty than the sheep. It is naturally more lively, and more possessed with animal instinct. It easily attaches itself to man, and seems sensible of his caresses. It is also stronger and swifter, more courageous, and more playful, lively, capricious, and vagrant: it is not easily confined to its flock, but chooses its own pastures, and loves to stray remote from the rest. It chiefly delights in climbing precipices; in going to the very edge of danger: it is often seen suspended upon an eminence hanging over the sea, upon a very little base, and even sleeps there in security. Nature has, in some measure, fitted it for traversing these declivities with ease; the hoof is hollow underneath, with sharp edges, so that it walks as securely on the ridge of a house, as on the level ground.

The milk of the goat is sweet, nourishing, and medicinal; not so apt to curdle upon the

stomach as that of the cow; and, therefore, preferable for those whose digestion is but weak. One of the most remarkable varieties we find in the goat is in that of Natolia. The Natolian goat, or the goat of *Angora*, has the ears longer than ours, and broader in proportion. The male has horns of about the same length with the goat of Europe, but black, and turned very differently, going out horizontally on each side of the head, and twisted round in the manner of a cork-screw The horns of the female are shorter, and encircle the ear somewhat like those of the ram. They are of a dazzling white colour, and in all the hair is very long, thick, fine, and glossy.

A second variety is the Assyrian goat, which is somewhat larger than ours, with ears almost hanging down to the ground, and broad in proportion. The horns, on the contrary, are not above two inches and a half long, black, and bending a little backwards. The hair is of a fox colour, and under the throat there are two excrescences, like the gills of a cock. These animals are chiefly

Fig. 56

FEMALE FALLOW DEER

Fig. 57

FALLOW DEER

kept round Aleppo for the sake of their milk. They are driven through the streets, and their milk is sold to the inhabitants as they pass along.

THE FALLOW-DEER.

THE fallow-deer is found but rarely wild in the forests; they are, in general, bred up in parks, and kept for the purposes of hunting, or of luxury, their flesh being preferred to that of any other animal. The horns of the buck, as of all other animals of this kind, is shed every year, and takes the usual time for repairing. It often happens that a herd of fallow-deer is seen to divide into two parties, and engage each other with great ardour and obstinacy. They both seem desirous of gaining some favourite spot of the park for pasture, and of driving the vanquished party into the coarser and more disagreeable parts. Each of these factions has its particular chief; namely, the two oldest and strongest of the

herd. These lead on to the engagement; and the rest follow under their direction. These combats are singular enough, from the disposition and conduct which seems to regulate their mutual efforts. They attack with order, and support the assault with courage; they come to each other's assistance, they retire, they rally, and never give up the victory upon a single defeat. The combat is renewed for several days together; until at length the most feeble side is obliged to give way, and is content to escape to the most disagreeable part of the park, where only they can find safety and protection.

The fallow-deer is easily tamed, and feeds upon many things which the stag refuses.

However, there is scarce a country in Europe, except far to the northward, in which this animal is a stranger. The Spanish fallow-deer are as large as stags, but of a darker colour, and a more slender neck. In Guiana, a country of South America, according to Labat, there are deer without horns, which are much less than those of Europe, but resembling them in every other particular.

Fig. 150

REIN DEER

Fig. 149

ELK

They are very lively, light of course, and excessively fearful; their hair is of a reddish fallow, their heads are small and lean, their ears little, their necks long and arched, the tail short, and the sight piercing. When pursued, they fly into places where no other animal can follow them. The negroes, who pursue them, stand to watch for them in narrow paths, which lead to the brook, or the meadow where they feed; there waiting in the utmost silence, for the slightest sound will drive them away, the Negro, when he perceives the animal within reach, shoots, and is happy if he can bring down his game. Their flesh, though seldom fat, is considered as a great delicacy, and the hunter is well rewarded for his trouble.

THE ELK AND REIN-DEER.

THE Elk and the Rein-deer, are only found in the northern countries; the Elk on this, and the Rein-deer on the other side

of the polar circle in Europe and Asia. The Rein-deer can bear even the most excessive cold. He is found in Spitsbergen; he is common in Greenland, and in the most northern parts of Lapland; thus also, in the most northern parts of Asia; the Elk does not approach so near the pole; he inhabits Norway, Sweden, Poland, Russia, and all the provinces of Siberia and Tartary, with the north of China.

We may form a sufficiently just idea of the Elk and the Rein-deer, by comparing them with the stag. The Elk is larger, stronger, and stands more erect upon his legs; his neck is shorter, his hair longer, and his antlers wider and heavier than those of the stag. The Rein-deer is shorter and more squat; his legs are shorter and thicker, and his feet wider; the hair very thickly furnished, and his antlers much longer, and divided into a greater number of branches, with flat terminations; while those of the Elk are only (if the expression is allowed) cut or broached at the edges; both have long hair under the neck, and both have short tails,

and ears much larger than the stag; they do not leap or bound like the roe-bucks; but their pace is a kind of trot, so easy and quick, that they go over almost as much ground in the same time as the stags do, without being so much fatigued; for they can trot in this manner for a day or two. The Rein-deer lives upon the mountains; the stag only dwells in low lands and damp forests; both the Elk and Rein-deer go in herds, and both can be tamed, but the Rein-deer with greater ease than the Elk; the last, like the stag, has not lost his liberty, while the Rein-deer is become domestic among the enlightened part of mankind. The Laplanders have no other beast. He is used, to draw sledges and other carriages; he travels with great speed and swiftness; he easily goes a hundred miles a day, and runs with as much certainty upon frozen snow as upon the mossy down. The female affords milk more substantial, and more nourishing than that of the cow; the flesh is very good to eat; his coat makes an excellent fur; and his dressed hide becomes a very supple and very durable leather.

Spoons are also made of his bones, bowstrings and thread of his tendons, and glue is manufactured from his horns. Thus the Rein-deer alone affords all that we derive from the horse, the ox, and the sheep.

His food, in the winter season, is a white moss which he finds under the snow, and which he ploughs up with his horns, or digs up with his feet. When the snow is too deep for them to obtain this article, they resort to another lichen that hangs on pine trees ; and in severe seasons the boors often cut down some thousands of these trees to furnish subsistence to their herds.

In summer, he lives upon the buds and leaves of trees, rather than herbs, which his forward-spreading antlers will not permit him to browse on with facility. He runs upon the snow, and sinks but little, on account of his broad feet. These animals are mild ; and they bring them up in herds, which turns out greatly to the profit of their keepers. The richest Laplanders have herds of four or five hundred head of Rein-deer, and the poor have ten or twelve. They lead them to pas-

ture, and re-lead them to the stable, or shut them up in parks during the night, to shelter them from the outrages of the wolves. The young Rein-deer follows his mother during the first two or three years and does not attain his growth till about the age of four or five. It is at this age that they begin to dress and exercise them for labour.

The harness of the Rein-deer is only a thong of the hide, with the hairs remaining on it, round the neck, whence it descends towards the breast, passes under the belly between the legs, and is fastened to a hole which is in the fore part of the sledge. The Laplander has only a single cord by which to guide the animal, and which he throws indifferently upon the back of the beast, sometimes on one side, sometimes the other, according as he would direct him to the right or to the left. They can travel ten miles an hour; and it is not uncommon for them to make journeys of a hundred and fifty miles in nineteen hours; at their utmost speed, and for a short time they can accomplish nearly twenty miles within the hour.

In general, the Elk is a much larger and a much stronger animal than the Rein-deer. It is usually larger, both in height and bulk, than the horse. His hair is so rough, and his hide so hard, that a musket-ball cannot penetrate it. His legs are very firm, with so much motion and strength, especially in the fore feet, that he can kill a man by one single stroke of his foot; nevertheless, he is hunted with men and dogs. His pace, when disturbed, is a rapid kind of trot. In walking he lifts his feet very high, and can, without difficulty, step over a gate that is five feet high.

THE CAMEL AND DROMEDARY.

These names do not make two distinct kinds, but are only given to a variety of the same animal, which has, however, subsisted time immemorial. The principal, and perhaps the only sensible difference, by which

Fig. 135

CAMEL

Fig. 136

DROMEDARY

those two races are distinguished, consists in this, that the camel has two bunches upon his back, whereas the dromedary has but one; the latter, also, is neither so large, nor so strong as the camel. These two races, however, produce with each other, and the mixed breed formed between them is considered the best, the most patient, and the most indefatigable of all the kind.

Of the two varieties, the dromedary is by far the most numerous, the camel being scarcely ever found, except in Turkey, and the countries of the Levant; while the other is found spread over all the deserts of Arabia, the southern parts of Africa, Persia, Tartary, and a great part of the eastern Indies.

The camel is the most temperate of all animals, and it can continue to travel several days without drinking. In those vast deserts, where the earth is every where dry and sandy, where there are neither birds nor beasts, neither insects nor vegetables, where nothing is to be seen but hills of sand and heaps of bone, there the camel travels, posting forward, without requiring either drink

or pasture, and it often goes six or seven days without any sustenance whatsoever. Its feet are formed for travelling upon sand, and utterly unfit for moist or marshy places; the inhabitants, therefore, find a most useful assistant in this animal, where no other could subsist, and by its means cross those deserts with safety, which would be impassable by any other method of conveyance.

In Arabia and those countries where the camel is trained to useful purposes, it is considered as a sacred animal, without whose help the natives could neither subsist, traffic, nor travel; its milk makes a part of their nourishment; they feed upon its flesh, particularly when young; they clothe themselves with its hair, which it is seen to moult regularly once a year; and if they fear an invading enemy, their camels serve them in flight, and in a single day they are known to travel above a hundred miles.

The camel is easily instructed in the methods of taking up and supporting his burden; their legs, a few days after they are produced, are bent under their belly; they

are in this manner loaded, and taught to rise; their burden is every day thus increased, by insensible degrees, till the animal is capable of supporting a weight adequate to its force; the same care is taken in making them patient of hunger and thirst: while other animals receive their food at stated times, the camel is restrained for days together, and these intervals of famine are increased in proportion as the animal seems capable of sustaining them. By this method of education, they live five or six days without food or water; and their stomach is formed most admirably by nature to fit them for long abstinence; besides the four stomachs, which all animals have that chew the cud, (and the camel is of the number,) it has a fifth stomach, which serves as a reservoir, to hold a greater quantity of water than the animal has an immediate occasion for. It is of a sufficient capacity to contain a large quantity of water, where the fluid remains without corrupting, or without being adulterated by the other aliments; when the camel finds itself pressed with thirst, it has here an

easy resource for quenching it; it throws up a quantity of this water by a simple contraction of the muscles, into the other stomachs, and this serves to macerate its dry and simple food; in this manner, as it drinks but seldom, it takes in a large quantity at a time, and travellers, when straitened for water, have been often known to kill their camels for that which they expected to find within them.

The patience of this animal is most extraordinary; and it is probable, that its sufferings are great, for when it is loaded, it sends forth most lamentable cries, but never offers to resist the tyrant that oppresses it. At the slightest sign, it bends its knees and lies upon its belly, suffering itself to be loaded in this position; by this practice the burden is more easily laid upon it, than if lifted up while standing; at another sign it rises with its load, and the driver getting upon its back, between the two panniers, which, like hampers, are placed upon each side, he encourages the camel to proceed with his voice and with a song. In this manner the crea-

75 Fig. 74

WATER RAT RAT

Fig. 77 78 76

LONG TAILED FIELD MOUSE. SHORT TAILED Dº MOUSE

ture proceeds contentedly forward, with a slow uneasy walk, of about four miles an hour, and when it comes to its stage, lies down to be unloaded as before.

THE PECCARY.

THE Peccary, *or Mexican hog*, at first view, resembles the domestic hog; the form of its body, the shape of its head, the length of its snout, and the form of its legs, are alike: however, when we come to examine it nearer, the differences begin to appear. The body is not so bulky; its legs not so long; its bristles, much thicker and stronger than those of the hog, resembling rather the quills of a porcupine, than hair; instead of a tail, it has only a little fleshy protuberance, which does not even cover its posteriors; but that which is still more extraordinary, and in which it differs from all other quadrupeds whatsoever, is, that it has got upon its back a lump, resembling the navel in other animals, which

is found to separate a liquor of a very strong smell. This lump, or navel, is situated on that part of the back which is over the hinder legs; it is, in general, so covered with long bristles, that it cannot be seen, except they be drawn aside. A small space then appears, that is almost bare, and only beset with a few short fine hairs. In the middle it rises like a lump; and in this there is an orifice, into which one may thrust a common goose quill. This hole or bag is not above an inch in depth; and round it, under the skin, are situated a number of small glands, which distil a whitish liquor, in colour and substance resembling that obtained from the civet animal. The colour of the body is grizzly, and beset with bristles, thicker and stronger than those of a the hog; though not near so thick as those of a porcupine, which they resemble, in this respect, that they are variegated with black and white rings. The belly is almost bare; and the short bristles on the sides, gradually increase in length, as they approach the ridge of the back, where some are five inches long. On the head also

between the ears, there is a large tuft of bristles that are chiefly black. The ears are about two inches and a half long, and stand upright; and the eyes resemble those of a common hog, only they are smaller. From the lower corner of the eye to the snout, is usually six inches; and the snout itself is like that of a hog's, though it is but small. One side of the lower lip is generally smooth, by the rubbing of the tusk of the upper jaw. The feet and hoofs are perfectly like those of a common hog.

The peccary, like the hog, is very prolific; the young ones follow the dam, and do not separate till they have come to perfection. If taken at first, they are very easily tamed, and soon lose all their natural ferocity, however, they never show any remarkable signs of docility, but continue stupid and rude, without attachment, or even seeming to know the hand that feeds them. They only continue to do no mischief; and they may be permitted to run tame, without apprehending any dangerous consequences.

THE MUSK RAT.

This animal is about the size of a small rabbit, but has the hair, the colour, and the tail of a rat, except that it is flatted on the sides. But it is still more extraordinary upon other accounts, and different from all other animals whatever. It is so formed that it can contract and enlarge its body at pleasure. It has a muscle like that of horses, by which they move their hides, lying immediately under the skin, and that furnished with such a power of contraction, together with such an elasticity in the false ribs, that this animal can creep into a hole where others, seemingly much less, cannot follow.

During summer they separate two by two, and feed upon the variety of roots and vegetables that the season offers. They then become extremely fat, and are much sought after, as well for their flesh as their skins, which are very valuable. They then also acquire a very strong scent of musk, so pleasing to an European, but which the savages of Canada cannot abide.

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