THE

YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR,

IN

NATURAL HISTORY.

THE

YOUTH'S INSTRUCTER

IN

NATURAL HISTORY;

IN SEVEN NUMBERS.

No. 3.

NEW YORK:

1832

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Fig. 151

CHAMOIS GOAT

Fig. 150

BUCK OF JUDA

THE

YOUTH'S INSTRUCTER

IN

NATURAL HISTORY;

IN SIX NUMBERS.

EACH No. CONTAINING TWENTY ILLUSTRATIONS.

NEW-YORK:—E. BLISS.

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NATURAL HISTORY.

THE CHAMOIS.

The Chamois is a wild animal, but easily tamed, and very docile. It is about the size of a domestic goat, and resembles one in many respects. It is most agreeably lively and active beyond expression. Its hair is short, like that of the doe; in spring it is of an ash colour, and in winter of a blackish brown. The large males keep themselves apart from the rest, except at particular seasons. The young follows the dam for about five months, and sometimes longer, if the hunters or the wolves do not separate them. It is asserted that they live between twenty and thirty years. The flesh of the Chamois is good to eat; and some of the fattest afford ten or twelve pounds of suet, which far sur-

passes that of the goat in solidity and goodness.

The cry of the Chamois is not distinctly known; if it has any, it is but faint, and resembling that of a hoarse goat: it is by this cry it calls its young; but, when they are frightened, or are in danger of any enemy, or some other object not perfectly known to them, they warn the rest of the flock by a kind of hissing noise. It is observable, that the Chamois has a very penetrating eye, and its hearing and smell are not less distinguishing. When it finds an enemy near, it stops for a moment, and then in an instant flies off with the utmost speed. When the wind is in its favour, it can smell a human creature for more than half a mile distance. When this happens, therefore, and it cannot see its enemy, but only discovers his approach by the scent, it begins the hissing noise with such force, that the rocks and the forests re-echo with the sound. This hissing continues as long as the breath will permit. In the beginning it is very shrill, and deeper toward the close.

Their agility is wonderful, as they will throw themselves down, across a rock, which is nearly perpendicular, and twenty or thirty feet in height, without a single prop to support their feet. Their motion has, indeed, rather the appearance of flying than of leaping. The Chamois feeds upon the best herbage, and chooses the most delicate parts of plants, flowers, and the most tender buds. It is not less delicate with regard to several aromatic herbs, which grow upon the sides of the Alps. It drinks but very little while it feeds upon the succulent herbage, and ruminates, like the goat, in the intervals of feeding. Its head is crowned with two small horns, of about half a foot long, of a beautiful black, and rising from the forehead, almost betwixt the eyes. These horns are often made use of for the heads of canes. The hides of these animals are very strong and supple, and good warm waistcoats and gloves are made of them.

THE JUDA GOAT.

THE Juda goat resembles ours in most parts, except in size, it being much smaller. This animal is common in Guinea, Angola, and all along the coast of Africa; it is not much larger than the hare, but it is extremely fat, and its flesh admirably tasted. It is in that country universally preferred to mutton.

THE MOUFLON.

THE Mouflon, or wild Sheep, is an inhabitant of rocky and mountainous regions, and is principally found in the Alpine parts of Asia. Dr. Pallas observed this species existing throughout the vast chain of mountains extending through the middle of that continent to the Eastern Sea.

The Mouflon is very plentiful in Kamt-

Fig. 139

MOUFLON

Fig. 140

ICELAND RAM

schatka and Barbary, as well as in the mountains of Greece and in the Corsican and Sardinian islands, merely differing in a few slight particulars of size and colour, according to the climate.

These animals have large horns, arched semicircularly backward, and divergent at their tips, wrinkled on their upper surface, and flattened beneath: on the neck are two pendant hairy dewlaps. This creature is about the size of the fallow deer. It is of a gray ferruginous brown colour above, and whitish beneath: the face is also of a whitish hue; and behind each of the shoulders a dusky patch or spot is often discovered. In the European variety the legs are generally white: the head exhibits much resemblance to the ram; but the ears are considerably smaller in proportion to its size. The body is large; but the neck and legs are slender, and the latter are very strong. The tail is very short, being seldom more than three inches in length. The horns, in the adult or full-grown animal, have much the appearance of those of the common ram. This

animal has hair instead of wool, thus greatly differing from the general aspect of the sheep; but the face, in winter, and especially that part about the tip of the nose becomes whiter; the back is of a more ferruginous cast; and the hair, which is close in summer, like the deer, becomes somewhat wavy, a little curled, and rough, consisting of a kind of wool intermixed with hair, and its roots concealed by a fine, woolly down. About the neck and shoulders, as well as under the throat, the hair is considerably longer than elsewhere. The female is much less than the male, and her horns neither so much curved nor so large as those of the ram.

These animals are very timid; and when closely pursued, they turn and double like a hare, and do not run in a progressive course. They ascend rocky mountains with great agility, passing over the narrowest and most dangerous places with perfect safety, like the wild goat.

The horns of the Mouflon grow to a vast size, and some have been found to measure in their convolutions above two ells in length,

and to weigh fifteen pounds each. Sometimes they are found broken off in such a manner that the small animals of the forest creep into the cavity for shelter.

Like many other animals, the young ones, which are often taken when the parent has been destroyed, are very easily tamed.

THE ICELAND BUCK.

THE Iceland sheep, resembles our breed, in the form of the body and the tail; but differs in a very extraordinary manner in the number of the horns; being found to have four, and sometimes even eight, growing from different parts of the forehead. These are large and formidable; and the animal seems thus fitted by Nature for a state of war: however, it is of the nature of the rest of its kind, being mild, gentle, and timid. Its wool is very different, also, from that of the common sheep, being long, smooth. and hairy.

Its colour is of a dark brown ; and under its outward coat of hair, it has an internal covering, that rather resembles fur than wool, being fine, short, and soft.

THE STAG.

Is one of those mild, tranquil, innocent animals, which seems as if they were created solely to adorn and animate the solitude of the forest, and to occupy, remote from man, the peaceful retreats of Nature. His light and elegant form ; his flexible yet nervous limbs ; his head rather adorned, than armed, with a living substance, which, like the branch of a tree, is every year renewed ; his size, his swiftness, his strength, sufficiently distinguished him from the rest of the inhaitants of the forest.

The Fawn retains this appellation no longer than till it is six months old ; then the knobs begin to appear, and it takes the name of a Knobber, which it bears till these

Fig. 54

STAG

Fig. 55

HIND

knobs are lengthened to so many points, whence they are termed Prickets, or Brockets. It does not quit its mother early, though it grows fast, but follows her all the summer. In winter, the Hinds, the Knobbers, the Prickets, and the young Stags resort to the herd, forming troops, which are more numerous in proportion as the season is more severe.

The cry of the hind, or female, is not so loud as that of the male, and is never excited but by apprehension for herself or her young. She has no horns, and is more feeble than the male.

The Stag passes his whole life in the alternatives of plentitude and want, of corpulence and leanness, and of health and sickness, without having his constitution much affected by the violence of the change; nor is the duration of his life inferior to that of other animals which are not subject to such vicissitudes.

The most common colour of the Stag is yellow, though there are many found of a brown, and many of a red colour. White

Stags are much more uncommon, and seem to be Stags become domestic. The colour of the horns, like that of the hair, seems in particular to depend on the nature and age of the animal. The horns of the young Stags are whiter than those of the old ones. Of those Stags also whose hair is of a light yellow, the horns are often of a sallow hue, and disagreeable to the eye.

THE GIRAFFE

Is one of the tallest, most beautiful, and most harmless animals in nature ; its motion is waddling and stiff; it can neither fly from its enemies in its free state, nor serve its master in a domestic one. The species is not very numerous, and has always been confined to the deserts of Ethiopia, and some other provinces of Africa and India.

The motions of the head and neck are extremely graceful and curious, possesing the flexibility and gracefulness of the neck of

Fig. 165

GIRAFFE

166 *Fig.* *167*

TWO TOED SLOTH TARSIER

the swan and peacock. Its eye is large, prominent, and exceedingly quick in catching objects at a great distance; it is well defended by the brow, and it can see, without turning the head, behind and below it. The ears are well formed to receive sounds; and are constantly bent foward. The tongue has very peculiar properties, and can be so tapered as to enter the ring of a very small key. Its taste and smell are acute and very delicate, especially as regards the artificial food now given it; it can raise the little papillæ at pleasure, for at times the tongue is perfectly smooth and soft, at others exceedingly rough. It is a small feeder, but drinks about eight or ten quarts of milk in the day. The upper lip is longer than the lower one, which assists the tongue in drawing in boughs; but when grinding its food it is contracted. It has no teeth or nippers in the upper jaw, and the two outside ones are divided to the socket; it lies down when it chews the cud. It inhabits the internal desert regions of Africa.

THE SLOTH.

Of the Sloths there are two kinds, distinguished from each other by their claws; the one having only two claws upon each foot, and being without a tail; the other having a tail, and three claws upon each foot. They are both described under the common appellation of the sloth, and their habitudes well deserve our wonder and curiosity. Other animals are often indolent from choice, these are slow from necessity. Its fur is coarse and staring, somewhat resembling dried grass, the tail very short, and scarce appearing; the mouth extending from ear to ear; the eye dull and heavy; the feet armed with claws, but made so short and set so awkwardly that a few paces is often the journey of a week. In fact, this poor creature seldom changes place but by constraint, and when impelled by the severest pangs of hunger. Destitute of teeth, it can-

not feed upon flesh, but is reduced to subsist upon leaves and wild fruits. Though formed by nature for climbing a tree with great pain and difficulty, yet it is unable to descend; it is, therefore, obliged to drop from the branches to the ground, and as it is incapable of exerting itself to break the violence of its descent, it drops like a shapeless mass, and receives no small shock in the fall; after remaining some time torpid, it prepares for a journey to some neighbouring tree; it often takes a week in crawling to a tree not fifty yards distant. All motions seem to torture it; every step it takes it sends forth a melancholy cry, which, from some similitude to the human voice, excites a kind of disgust mixed with pity.

THE TARSIER

Is an animal remarkable for the length of its hind legs, which are longer than the rest of its whole body. The bones of the feet,

and especially those which compose the upper part of the tarsus, are of an extraordinary size; and it is from this very character its name has been taken. It has five toes to every foot; it has, as may be said, four hands; for the toes are very long, and sufficiently divided; the largest of those behind, or the thumb, is terminated by a flat claw; and, although the claws of the other toes are pointed, they are, at the same time, so short and so small, that they do not prevent the animal from using its fore feet like hands. The jerboa, on the contrary, has only four toes, and four long and crooked claws, on its fore feet; and instead of a thumb, it has only a tubercle without any claw: but, what removes it further from our Tarsier, is, that it has only three fingers, or three great claws, on the hind feet. The Tarsier is found in in some remote islands of India; particularly in Amboyna. One species is a native of Madagascar.

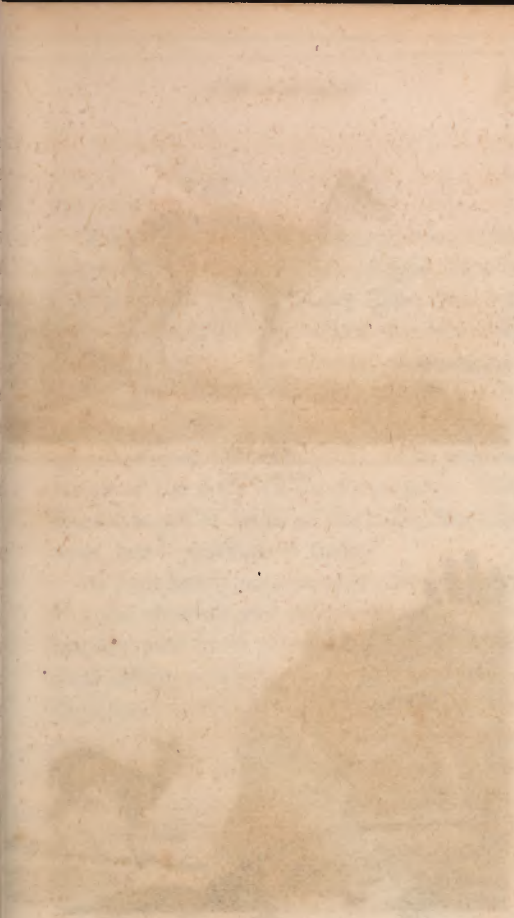

Fig. 139

CARIACOU

Fig. 139 *Fig.* 137

CARIACOU OF CEYLON MEMINI

THE CARIACOU.

THE size and general appearance of this animal resembles, in some degree those of the roe-buck. It is about three feet four inches in length, and about two feet eight inches in height, from the top of the shoulders to the bottom of the fore feet; the ears are long and narrow, of a pale yellow in the inside, and deep brown outside. The general colour of the body is a deep iron gray. The female is not so large as the male, has two teats, but is destitute of tusks.

In their habits and manners they are very like the chamois and other mountain goats, leaping with great celerity, and when pursued taking refuge among the highest and most inaccessible summits. Indeed, their favourite haunts are the tops of mountains covered with pines, where they delight to wander in places the most difficult of access. The flesh of the males is much infected with the taste of musk; but is eaten by the Russians and Tartars.

THE MEMINI.

This species has been sometimes confounded with the Pygmæus Musk, but is very dissimilar. It is of a yellowish gray colour; the haunches and sides are spotted and barred with white, its ears are long and open, and its tail short. This animal is not larger than a hare, but exactly resembles a fallow deer. They can subsist only in a warm climate, being so extremely delicate that it is with difficulty they can be brought alive into Europe, where they soon perish. In addition to their beauty they are exceedingly gentle and familiar.

THE NANGUER.

The Nanguer is a native of Senegal, and differs but little in shape and colour from the rest of the Gazelle tribe, except in the shape

Fig. 155

NANGUER.

Fig. 156

GUIB

of its horns, which are straight near to the points, where they crook forward, pretty much in the same manner as in the chamois they crook backward.

THE GUIB.

These animals, great herds of which are found in the woods and plains of the country of Poder, in Africa, are most singularly marked with two longitudinal bands running along each side, crossed by two others descending from the back, and also by three white lines pointing downwards from the rump to the thigh. The relief of these white lists upon a brown or tawny ground, which is the general colour of the animal, has very much the appearance of harness; from which circumstance it has derived the name of the harnessed Antelope. Beneath each eye is a white spot; the under part of the neck and a part of the face are white; and there are several whitish spots upon the thighs. The

forehead and ridge of the back are black; the horns are nearly straight, tapering, sharp-pointed, and inclining backward; and they have two spiral edges along their whole length, which is about nine inches.

THE ROE-BUCK.

The roe-buck is generally about three feet long, and about two feet high. The horns are from eight to nine inches long, upright, round, and divided into only three branches. The body is covered with very long hair. The lower part of each hair is ash colour; near the ends is a narrow bar of black, and the points are yellow. The hairs on the face are black, tipped with ash colour. The ears are long, their insides of a pale yellow, and covered with long hair. The spaces bordering on the eyes and mouth, are black. The chest, belly, and legs, and the inside of the thighs, are of a yellowish white; the rump is of a pure white, and the tail very

Fig. 58

ROEBUCK

Fig. 59

FEMALE

short. The make of this little animal is very elegant; and its swiftness equals its beauty. It differs from the fallow-deer, in having round horns, and not flatted like theirs. It differs from the stag, in its smaller size, and the proportionable paucity of its antlers: and it differs from all of the goat kind, as it annually sheds its horns and obtains a new one, which none of that kind are ever seen to do.

Though but a very little animal, yet when its young is attacked, it faces even the stag himself, and often comes off victorious. All its motions are elegant and easy; it bounds without effort, and continues the course with but little fatigue. It is also possessed of more cunning in avoiding the hunter, is more difficult to pursue, and, although its scent is much stronger than that of the stag, it is more frequently found to make a good retreat. These animals live in separate families; the sire, the dam, and the young ones, associate together, and never admit a stranger into their little community. All others of the deer kind are inconstant in their affection; but the roe-buck never leaves its mate; and,

as they have been generally bred up together from their first fawning, they conceive so strong an attachment, the male for the female, that they never after separate.

THE MORVANT.

In the hottest countries of Africa and India, there is a breed of large Sheep, which have rough hair, short horns, hanging ears, and a kind of tuft under the tail. It is tame like ours, and like it, subject to variety. These, though different in themselves by particular characters, resemble each other so much in other respects, that we can scarcely doubt but they are of the same kind.

In temper it is extremely mild; but it is an uncouth looking creature. It is high on the legs, narrow in the loins, and its coat is rough and shaggy. Its horns are remarkably small, and within their curve the ears are enclosed. Whenever the ears escape from this seeming confinement, the animal exhi-

Fig. 143

MORVANT

Fig. 144

AXIS

bits much uneasiness; and, difficult as it is for him to replace them, he never rests till it is accomplished. On his back and sides he he is nearly black; the shoulders are of a reddish brown; the posterior part of the body, the haunches, the hind legs, the tail, the nose, and also the ears, which are rather large, are white. There is likewise a white spot over each eye.

THE AXIS.

The Axis is of the small number of ruminating animals with horns, like the stag. He has the shape and swiftness of the fallow-deer. The horns of the axis are round, like those of the stag; but the form of its body entirely resembles that of the buck, and the size also is exactly the same. The hair is of four colours; namely, fallow, white, black, and gray. The white is predominant under the belly, on the inside of the thighs and the legs. Along the back there are two rows of

spots in a right line ; but those on other parts of the body are very irregular. A white line runs along each side of this animal, while the head and neck are gray. The tail is black above, and white beneath ; and the hair upon it is six inches long.

It has been remarked, that there is no species which approaches so near to another, as that of the deer to the stag : nevertheless, the Axis appears to be an intermediate mixture between the two. He resembles the deer in the size of his body, the length of his tail, and his coat, which is the same during his whole life; he only essentially differs from that animal in his horns, which nearly resemble those of the stag. The Axis, therefore, may possibly be only a variety depending on the climate, and not a different species from the deer ; for, although he is a native of the hottest countries of Asia, he supports, and easily multiplies in, that of Europe. There are many herds of them in the menagerie of Versailles ; but it has never yet been observed, that they mix either with the deer or with the stags ; and

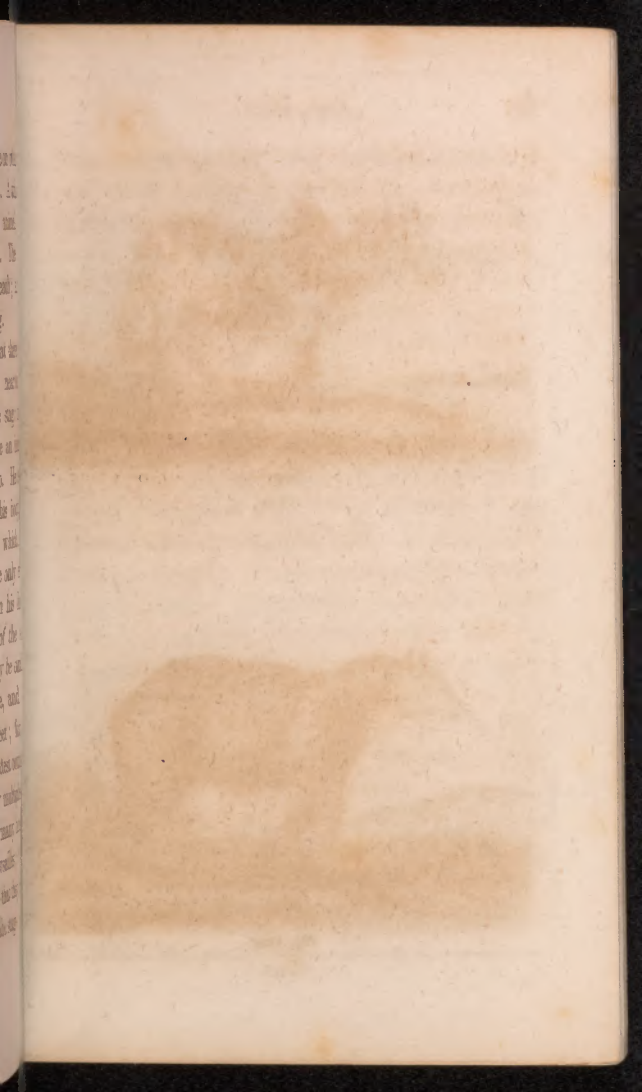

Fig. 145

ZEBU

Fig. 146

TAPIR

this is the cause of our presuming that it is not a variety of one or the other, but a particular and mediate species between the two. It is a very mild and timid animal.

THE ZEBU.

THERE can be little doubt that the Zebu, or Indian Ox, is merely a variety of the common Ox, their anatomical structure is the same, and the form of their heads, which affords the only certain means of distinguishing the actual species of this genus from each other, presents no difference whatever. In both the forehead is flat, or more properly slightly depressed; nearly square in its outlines, its height being equal to its breadth; and bounded above by a prominent line, forming an angular protuberance, passing directly across the skull between the basis of the horns. The only circumstances in fact in which the two animals differ consist in a fatty hump on the shoulders of the Zebu,

and in the somewhat more slender and delicate make of its legs.

Numerous breeds of this humped variety, varying in size from that of a large Mastiff-dog to that of a full-grown Buffalo, are spread, more or less extensively, over the whole of Southern Asia, the Islands of the Indian Archipelago, and the Eastern coast of Africa from Abyssinia to the Cape of Good Hope. In all these countries the Zebu supplies the place of the Ox both as a beast of burthen and as an article of food and domestic economy. In some parts of India it executes the duties of the horse also, being either saddled and ridden, or harnessed in a carriage, and performing in this manner journeys of considerable length with tolerable celerity.

The whole of the breeds are treated with great veneration by the Hindoos, who hold it sinful to deprive them of life under any pretext whatever. But they do not, in general, scruple to make the animal labour for their benefit; although they consider it the height of impiety to eat of their flesh. A select number are, however, exempted from all ser-

vices, and have the privilege of straying about the towns and villages, and of taking their food wheresoever they please, if not sufficiently supplied by the pious contributions of the devotees who impose on themselves this charitable office.

THE TAPIR.

This animal bears some distant resemblance in its form to a mule. It has a long snout, which it lengthens or contracts at pleasure. Its ears are small, long, and pendent. Its neck and tail are short, and its claws strong and firm, of which it has four upon each foot. Its skin is thick, and covered with brown hair; and the natives make shields of it, which cannot be pierced by an arrow.

The Tapir may, in some measure, be termed amphibious, as it chiefly resides in the water. It differs, however, from all others of this kind, in feeding entirely upon vegeta-

bles, and not making this element the place of its depredations. It feeds upon the pastures by the river-side, and as it is very timorous, the instant it hears the least noise, it plunges into the stream. They are greatly sought after by the natives, as their flesh is considered a delicacy, and thought by some not inferior to beef.

THE ELEPHANT.

THE elephant, at first view, presents the spectator with an enormous mass of flesh that seems scarcely animated. Its huge body, covered with a callous hide, without hair; its large misshapen legs, that seems scarcely formed for motion; its little eyes, large ears, and long trunk, all give it an air of extreme stupidity. But our prejudices will soon subside when we come to examine its history; they will even serve to increase our surprise when we consider the various advantages it derives from so clumsy a conformation.

Fig 133

ELEPHANT

Fig 134

RHINOCEROS

The elephant is seen from seven to no less than fifteen feet high. Whatever care we take to imagine a large animal before hand, yet the first sight of this huge creature never fails to strike us with astonishment, and in some measure to exceed our idea. Having been used to smaller animals, we have scarce any conception of its magnitude; for a moving column of flesh, fourteen feet high, is an object so utterly different from those we are constantly presented with, that to be conceived, it must be actually seen.

Of all quadrupeds, the elephant is the strongest as well as the largest; and yet, in a state of Nature, it is neither fierce nor formidable. Mild, peaceful, and brave, it never abuses its power or its strength, and only uses its force for its own protection, or that of its community. In its native deserts, the elephant is seldom seen alone, but appears to be a social, friendly creature.

Their chief food is of the vegetable kind, for they loathe all kind of animal diet. When one among their number happens to

light upon a spot of good pasture, he calls the rest, and invites them to share in the entertainment; but it must be a very copious pasture indeed that can supply the necessities of the whole band.

Such are the habits of this animal considered in a social light; and, if we regard it as an individual, we shall find its powers still more extraordinary. With a very awkward appearance, it possesses all the senses in great perfection, and is capable of applying them to more useful purposes than any other quadruped. The elephant, has very small eyes, when compared to the enormous bulk of its body. But though their minuteness at first sight appear deformed, yet, when we come to examine them, they are seen to exhibit a variety of expression, and to discover the various sensations with which it is moved. It turns them with attention and friendship to its master; it seems to reflect and deliberate; and as its passions slowly succeed each other, their various workings are distinctly seen.

The elephant is not less remarkable for

the excellence of its hearing. Its ears are extremely large, and greater in proportion than even those of an ass. Its sense of smelling is not only exquisite, but in a great measure the animal is pleased with the same odours that delight mankind. He gathers flowers with great pleasure and attention, picking them up one by one, and uniting them in a nosegay, he seems charmed with the perfume.

But it is in the sense of touching that this animal excels all others of the brute creation, and perhaps even man himielf. The organ of this sense lies wholly in the trunk, which is an instrument peculiar to this animal, and serves it for all the purposes of a hand. The trunk is, properly speaking, only the snout lengthened out to a great extent, and hollow like a pipe, but with a partition running from one end to the other ; so that though outwardly it appears like a single pipe, it is inwardly divided into two—this fleshy tube is composed of nerves and muscles, covered with a proper skin of a blackish colour, like that of the rest of the

body. It is capable of being moved in every direction, of being lengthened and shortened, of being bent or straightened, so pliant as to embrace any body it is applied to, and yet so strong that nothing can be torn from the gripe. Through this trunk the animal breathes, drinks, and smells, as through a tube; and at the very point of it, just above the nostrils, there is an extension of the skin, about five inches long, in the form of a finger, and which, in fact, answers all the purposes of one; for, with the rest of the extremity of the trunk, it is capable of assuming different forms at will, and consequently of being adapted to the minutest objects. By means of this, the elephant can take a pin from the ground, untie the knots of a rope, unlock a door, and even write with a pen.

THE RHINOCEROS.

Words can convey but a very confused idea of this animal's shape; and yet there

are few so remarkably formed. It is usually found twelve feet long, from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail; six or seven feet high, and the circumference of its body is nearly equal to its length. Its head is furnished with a horn, growing from the snout, sometimes three feet and a half long; and but for this, that part would have the appearance of the head of a hog; the upper lip, however, is much longer in proportion, ends in a point, is very pliable, serves to collect its food, and deliver it into its mouth: the ears are large, erect, and pointed; the eyes are small and piercing; the skin is naked, rough, knotty, and lying upon the body in folds, after a very peculiar fashion: there are two folds very remarkable; one above the shoulders, and another over the rump: the skin, which is of a dirty brown colour, is so thick and hard as to turn the edge of a scimitar, and even to resist a musket ball: the belly hangs low; the legs are short, strong, and thick, and the hoofs divided into three parts, each pointing forward.

The age of these animals is not well

known; it is said by some, that they bring forth at three years old, and if we may reason from analogy, it is probable they seldom live till above twenty. The rhinoceros is a native of the deserts of Asia and Africa, and is usually found in those extensive forests that are frequented by the elephant and the lion. As it subsists entirely upon vegetable food, it is peaceful and harmless among its fellows of the brute creation; but, though it never provokes to combat, it equally disdains to fly. It is every way fitted for war, but rests content in the consciousness of its security. It is particularly fond of the prickly branches of trees, and is seen to feed upon such thorny shrubs as would be dangerous to other animals, either to gather or to swallow. The prickly points of these, however, may only serve to give a poignant relish to this animal's palate, and may answer the same grateful ends in seasoning its banquet, that spices do in heightening ours.

There are some varieties in this animal, as in most others; some of them are found in Africa with a double horn, one growing

above the other. This weapon, if considered in itself, is one of the strongest and most dangerous that Nature furnishes to any part of the animal creation. The horn is entirely solid, formed of the hardest bony substance, growing from the upper maxillary bone, but by so strong an apophyse, as seemingly to make but one part with it. Many are the medicinal virtues that are ascribed to this horn, when taken in powder; but these qualities have been attributed to it without any real foundation, and make only a small part of the many fables which this extraordinary animal has given rise to.

The youth's instructer in natural history.

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