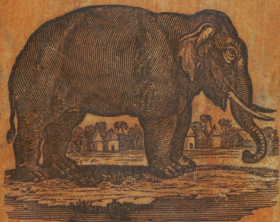


NATURAL HISTORY
OF
QUADRUPEDS;
FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF YOUTH.



COOPERSTOWN:

STEREOTYPED, PRINTED AND SOLD BY
H. & E. PHINNEY.

.....
1831.

5 called signed Y. H
(Y. H. Hall)

4 signed A (Anderson)

Hall was a pupil of
Anderson (Hamilton)

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Smith & Steer

presented by his friend
and teacher -

Isaac Fiske

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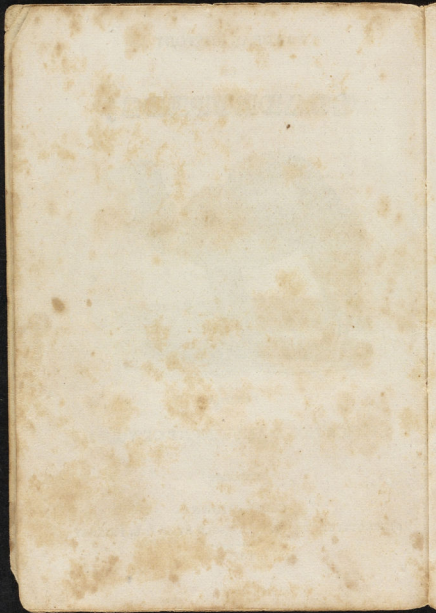
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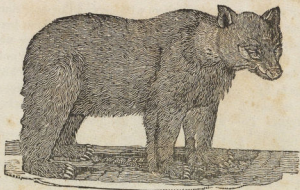


FOR THE
EDIFICATION & AMUSEMENT OF YOUTH

COOPERSTOWN:
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.....
1829.





THE BEAR.

There are two principal varieties of the bear,—the *brown* and the *black*. The former is found in almost every climate, the black Bear chiefly in the forests of the northern regions of Europe and America.

The brown Bear is sometimes carnivorous; but its general food is roots, fruits, and vegetables.

It is a savage and solitary animal, lives in desert and unfrequented places, and chooses its den in the most dangerous and inaccessible precipices of unfrequented mountains. It retires alone to its den about the end of autumn, (at which time it is exceedingly fat) and lives for several weeks in a state of total inactivity and abstinence from food. During this time, the female brings forth her young, and suckles them. She chooses her retreat for that purpose, in the most retired places, apart from the

male, lest he should devour them. She makes a warm bed for her young, and attends them with unremitting care during four months, and in all that time scarcely allows herself any nourishment. She brings forth two, and sometimes three young at a time. The cubs are round and shapeless, with pointed muzzles; but they are not licked into form by the female, as Pliny and other ancient naturalists supposed. At first they do not exceed eight inches in length. They are blind during the first four weeks, are of a pale yellow colour, and have scarcely any resemblance of the creature when arrived at maturity.

In the spring, the old Bears, attended by their young, come out from their retreats, lean, and almost famished by their long confinement. They then ransack every quarter in search of food. They frequently climb trees, and devour the fruit in great quantities, particularly the date-plumb tree, of which they are exceedingly fond. They ascend these trees with surprising agility, keep themselves firm on the branches with one paw, and with the other collect the fruit.

The Bear is remarkably fond of honey, which it will encounter great difficulties to obtain, and seeks for with great cunning and avidity.

It enjoys, in a superior degree, the senses of hearing, smelling and touching.—Its ears are short and rounded; and its eyes are small, but lively and penetrating, and defended by a nictating membrane: From the peculiar formation of the internal parts of its nose, its sense of smelling is exceedingly exquisite: The legs and thighs are strong and muscular: It has five toes on each foot, and uses its fore foot as a hand, although the toes are not separated as in most animals that do so; the largest finger is on the outside.



THE SHEEP.

The Sheep, in its present domestic state, seems so far removed from a state of nature, that it may be deemed a difficult matter to point out its origin. Climate, food, and, above all, the unwearied arts of cultivation contribute to render this animal, in a peculiar manner, the creature of man; to whom it is obliged to trust entirely for its protection, and to whose necessities it largely contributes. Though singularly inoffensive, and harmless even to a proverb, it does not appear to be that stupid, inanimate creature described by Buffon, "devoid of every art of self-preservation, without courage, and even deprived of every instinctive faculty, we are led to conclude that the Sheep, of all other animals, is the most contemptible and stupid:" But amidst those numerous flocks which range without controul on extensive mountains, where they seldom depend upon the aid of the shepherd, it will be found to assume a

very different character : In those situations, a Ram or a Wedder will boldly attack a single dog, and often come off victorious ; but when the danger is more alarming, they have recourse to the collected strength of the whole flock. On such occasions they draw up into a compact body, placing the young and the females in the centre ; while the males take the foremost ranks, keeping close by each other. Thus an armed front is presented to all quarters, and cannot easily be attacked without danger or destruction to the assailant. In this manner they wait with firmness the approach of the enemy ; nor does their courage fail them in the moment of attack : 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 save himself by flight. Against the attacks of single Dogs or Foxes, when in this situation they are perfectly secure.—A Ram, regardless of danger, will sometimes engage a Bull ; and, as his forehead is much harder than that of any other animal, he seldom fails to conquer : For the Bull, by lowering his head, receives the stroke of the Ram between his eyes, which usually brings him to the ground.



THE GOAT.

This lively, playful, and capricious creature, though inferior to the Sheep in value, in various instances bears a strong affinity to that useful animal.

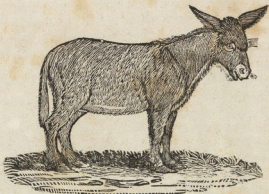
The Goat is much more hardy than the Sheep, and is, in every respect, more fitted for a life of liberty. It is not easily confined to a flock, but chuses its own pasture, straying wherever its appetite or inclination leads.—It chiefly delights in wild and mountainous regions, climbing the loftiest rocks, and standing secure on the verge of inaccessible and dangerous precipices; although, as Ray observes, one would hardly suppose that their feet were adapted to such perilous achievements; yet, upon a nearer inspection, we find that Nature has provided them with hoofs well calculated for the purpose of climbing; they are hollow underneath, with sharp edges, like the inside of a spoon, which prevent them from sliding off the rocky eminences they frequent.

The Goat is an animal easily sustained, and is chiefly therefore the property of those who inhabit wild and uncultivated regions, where it finds an ample supply of food from the spontaneous productions of Nature, in situations inaccessible to other creatures. It delights in the heathy mountain, or the shrubby rock, rather than the fields cultivated by human industry. Its favourite food are the tops of the boughs, or the tender bark of young trees. It bears a warm climate better than the Sheep, and frequently sleeps exposed to the hottest rays of the sun.

The milk of the Goat is sweet, nourishing, and medicinal, and is found highly beneficial in consumptive cases.

Several places in the north of England and the mountainous parts of Scotland are much resorted to for the purpose of drinking the milk of the goat; and its effects have been often salutary in vitiated and debilitated habits.

In many parts of Ireland, and in the Highlands of Scotland, their Goats make the chief possessions of the inhabitants; and, in most of the mountainous parts of Europe, supply the natives with many of the necessaries of life: They lie upon beds made of their skins, which are soft, clean, and wholesome; they live upon their milk, and oat bread; they convert part of it into butter, and some into cheese. The flesh of the kid is considered as a great rarity; and, when properly prepared, is esteemed by some as little inferior to venison.



THE ASS.

The Ass, it is probable, was originally a native of Arabia and other parts of the East: The deserts of Lybia and Numidia, and many parts of the Archipelago, contain vast herds of wild Asses, which run with such amazing swiftness, that even the fleetest Horses of the country can hardly overtake them. They are chiefly caught by the natives on account of their flesh, which is eaten by them, and considered as a delicious repast. The flesh of the common or tame Ass is however drier, more tough, and disagreeable than that of the Horse: Galen says, it is even unwholesome: Its milk, on the contrary, is an approved remedy for certain disorders.

The Ass, like the Horse, was originally imported into America by the Spaniards, where it has run wild, and become extremely numerous. Ulloa informs us that, in the kingdom of Quito, they hunt them in the following manner:—A number of persons on horseback, attended by

Indians on foot, form a large circle in order to drive them into a narrow compass, where at full speed they throw a noose over them, and having secured them with fetters, leave them till the chase is over, which frequently lasts for several days.

The qualities of this animal are so well known as to need no description : His gentleness, patience, and perseverance, are without example : He is temperate with regard to food, and eats contentedly the coarsest and most neglected herbage : If he give the preference to any vegetable, it is to the plantain, for which he will neglect every other herb in the pasture. In his water he is singularly nice, drinking only from the clearest brooks. He is so much afraid of wetting his feet, that even when loaden, he will turn aside, to avoid the dirty parts of the road.

He is stronger in proportion to his size, than the Horse ; but more sluggish, stubborn and untractable. He is hardier than the Horse ; and, of all other quadrupeds, is least infested with lice or other vermin ; probably owing to the extreme hardness and dryness of his skin. For the same reason, perhaps, he is less sensitive of the goads of the whip, or the stinging of flies.

He is three or four years in coming to perfection ; and lives to the age of twenty, or sometimes twenty-five years. He sleeps much less than the Horse, and never lies down for that purpose but when he is much fatigued.



THE MASTIFF

Is a species of Dog much larger and stronger than the Bull-Dog : its lips are large and loose ; its aspect is sullen and grave, and its bark loud and terrific.—He seems every way formed for the important trust of guarding and securing the valuable property committed to his care. Houses, gardens, yards, &c. are safe from depredations whilst in his custody. Confined during the day, as soon as the gates are locked, he is left to range at full liberty : He then goes round the premises, examines every part of them, and by loud barkings gives notice that he is ready to defend his charge.

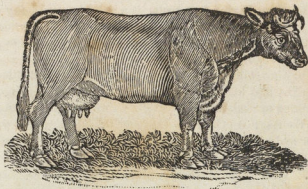
Dr. Caius, in his curious treatise on British Dogs, tells us, that three of these animals were reckoned a match for a Bear, and four for a Lion.

We have a curious account, recorded in Stow's Annals, of an engagement between three Mastiffs and a Lion,

in the presence of James the first. "One of the Dogs being put into the den, was soon disabled by the Lion, which took it by the head and neck, and dragged it about : Another Dog was then let loose, and 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 ; and the Lion, greatly exhausted in the conflict, refused to renew the engagement ; but taking a sudden leap over the Dogs, 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 by the king's son ; who said, "he that had fought with the king of beasts, should never after fight with any inferior creature."

The Mastiffs of Great-Britain were noted in the time of the Roman Emperors, who appointed an officer, whose sole business it was to breed and send from hence such as would prove equal to the combats of the amphitheatre.

The following anecdote will shew, that the Mastiff, conscious of its superior strength, knows how to chastise the impertinence of an inferior :—A large Dog of this kind, belonging to the late M. Ridley, Esq. of Heaton, near Newcastle, being frequently molested by a Mongrel, and teased by its continual barking, at last took it up in his mouth by the back, and with great composure dropped it over the quay into the river, without doing any further injury to an enemy so much his inferior.



THE COW.

Of all quadrupeds, the Cow seems most extensively propagated : it is equally capable of enduring the rigours of heat and cold ; and is an inhabitant of the frozen, as well as the most scorching climates.

The age of a Cow is known by its horns : At the age of four years, a ring is formed at their roots ; and every succeeding year, another ring is added. Thus, by allowing three years before their appearance, and then reckoning the number of rings, the creature's age may be exactly known.

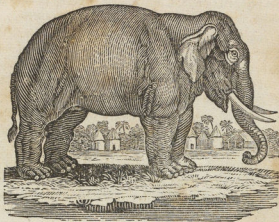
The quantity of milk given by Cows is very various. Some will yield only about six quarts in one day : while others give from ten to fifteen, and sometimes even twenty. The richness of the pasture contributes not a little to its increase. There have been instances of Cows giving upwards of thirty quarts of milk in one day. In such cases, there is a necessity for milking them thrice.—From the milk of some Cows, twelve or fourteen pounds of butter are made in a week.

The Cow, having four teats, is a striking peculiarity; the number in all other animals bearing some proportion to the number of young ones they bring forth at a time; as in the Bitch, the Cat, the Sow, &c.

The Cow will yield her milk as freely, and will continue to give it as long, without the aid of the calf, as if it were permitted to suck her constantly. This is not the case with the Ass; which, it is well known, will soon grow dry, if her foal be not permitted to suck part of her milk every day.

The Cow goes nine months with young, and seldom produces more than one at a time.

It is a curious fact, that when a Cow happens to bring forth two calves,—one of them a male, the other a female,—the former is a perfect animal, but the latter is incapable of propagation, and is well known to farmers under the denomination of a *Free Martin*. It resembles the Ox, or spayed Heifer, in figure; and is considerably larger than the Cow. It is sometimes preserved by the farmer, for the purpose of yoking with the Oxen, or fattening for the table.—Mr. Hunter observes, that the flesh of the Free Martin, like that of the Ox, is much finer in the fibre than either the Bull or Cow. It is supposed to exceed that of the Heifer in delicacy of flavour, and bears a higher price at market.



THE ELEPHANT.

Of all the creatures that have hitherto been taken into the service of man, the Elephant is pre-eminent in the size and strength of his body, and inferior to none in sagacity and obedience.

From time immemorial this animal has been employed either for the purposes of labour, of war, or of ostentatious parade ; to increase the grandeur of eastern princes, extend their power, or enlarge their dominions.

The Elephant is a native of Asia and Africa, and is not to be found in its natural state either in Europe or America. From the river Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope, they are met with in great numbers. In this extensive region, as they are more numerous than in any other part of the world, so are they less fearful of man. The savage inhabitants of this dreary country, instead of attempting to sub-

due this powerful animal, and render it subservient to their necessities, seem desirous only of avoiding its fury.

Sparrman says, that in the country near the Cape they are sometimes seen in large herds, consisting of many hundreds; and thinks it probable, that, in the more remote and unfrequented parts of that vast country, they are still more numerous.

They are frequently hunted by the colonists at the Cape, who are very expert in shooting them, and make great advantage of their teeth. The largest teeth weigh an hundred and fifty pounds, and are sold to the governor for as many guilders; so that a man may earn three hundred guilders at one shot. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that a traffic so lucrative should tempt the hunter to run great risks. In approaching this animal great care must be taken to steal upon him unperceived. If the Elephant discovers his enemy near, he rushes out, and endeavours to kill him. One of these hunters being out upon a plain, under the shelter of a few scattered thorn trees, thought he could be able to advance near enough to shoot an Elephant that was at a little distance from him; but he was discovered, pursued and overtaken by the animal, which laid hold of him with his trunk, and beat him instantly to death.



THE CAT

Differs from the Wild-Cat, in being somewhat less ; and, instead of being uniformly the same, is distinguished by a great variety of shades and colouring.

The cry of the Cat is loud, piercing, and clamorous ; and whether expressive of anger or of love, is equally violent and hideous. Its call may be heard at a great distance, and is so well known to the whole fraternity, that on some occasions several hundred Cats have been brought together from different parts. Invited by the piercing cries of distress from a suffering fellow-creature, they assemble in crowds ; and, with loud squalls and yells, express their horrid sympathies. They frequently tear the miserable object to pieces, and, with the most blind and furious rage, fall upon each other, killing and wounding indiscriminately, till there is scarcely one left. These terrible conflicts happen only in the night ; and, though rare, instances of very furious engagements are well authenticated.

In the time of Hoel the Good, King of Wales, who died in the year 948, laws were made as well to preserve, as to fix the different prices of animals; among which the Cat was included, as being at that period of great importance, on account of its scarceness and utility. The price of a kitten before it could see was fixed at one penny; till proof could be given of its having caught a mouse, two-pence; after which it was rated at fourpence, which was a great sum in those days, when the value of specie was extremely high: It was likewise required, that it should be perfect in its senses of hearing, and seeing, should be a good mouser, have its claws whole, and, if a female, be a careful nurse: If it failed in any of these good qualities, the seller was to forfeit to the buyer the third part of its value.—If any one should steal or kill the Cat that guarded the Prince's granary, he was either to forfeit a milch ewe, her fleece and lamb, or as much wheat as, when poured on the Cat suspended by its tail, (its head touching the floor,) would form a heap high enough to cover the tip of the former.—From hence we may conclude, that Cats were not originally natives of these islands; and from the great care taken to improve and preserve the breed of this prolific creature, we may suppose, were but little known at that period.—Whatever credit we may allow to the circumstances of the well-known story of Whittington and his Cat, it is another proof of the great value set upon this animal in former times.



THE STAG, OR RED DEER.

This is the most beautiful animal of the Deer kind. The elegance of his form, the lightness of his motions, the flexibility of his limbs, his bold branching horns, which are annually renewed, his grandeur, strength, and swiftness, give him a decided pre-eminence over every other inhabitant of the forest.

The age of the Stag is known by its horns. The first year exhibits only a short protuberance, which is covered with a hairy skin; the next year, the horns are straight and single; the third year produces two antlers; the fourth three, the fifth four; and, when arrived at the sixth year, the antlers amount to six or seven on each side; but the number is not always certain.

The Stag begins to shed his horns the latter end of February, or the beginning of March. Soon after the old

horn has fallen off, a soft tumour begins to appear, which is soon covered with a down like velvet: This tumour every day buds forth, like the graft of a tree; and rising by degrees, shoots out the antlers on each side: The skin continues to cover it for some time, and is furnished with blood-vessels, which supply the growing horns with nourishment, and occasion the furrows observable in them when that covering is stript off: The impression is deeper at the bottom, where the vessels are larger, and diminishes towards the point, where they are smooth. When the horns are at their full growth, they acquire strength and solidity; and the velvet covering or skin, with its blood-vessels, dries up, and begins to fall off; which the animal endeavours to hasten, by rubbing them against the trees; and, in this manner, the whole head gradually acquires its complete hardness, expansion and beauty.

The usual colour of the Stag, in England, is red; in other countries, it is generally brown or yellow. His eye is peculiarly beautiful, soft, and sparkling: His hearing is quick; and his sense of smelling acute. When listening, he raises his head, erects his ears, and seems attentive to every noise which he can hear at a great distance. When he approaches a thicket, he stops to look round him on all sides, and attentively surveys every object near him: If the cunning animal perceive nothing to alarm him, he moves slowly forward; but, on the least appearance of danger, he flies off with the rapidity of the wind. He appears to listen with great tranquillity and delight to the sound of the shepherd's pipe, which is sometimes made use of to allure the poor animal to its destruction.



THE HORSE.

The various excellencies of this noble animal, the grandeur of his stature, the elegance and proportion of his parts, the beautiful smoothness of his skin, the variety and gracefulness of his motions, and, above all, his utility, entitle him to a precedence in the history of the brute creation.

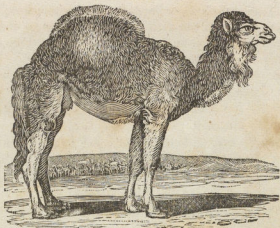
The Horse, in his domestic state, is generous, docile, spirited, and yet obedient; adapted to the various purposes of pleasure and convenience, he is equally serviceable in the draught, the field, or the race.

Although the Horse is endowed with vast strength and powers, he seldom exerts either to the prejudice of his master: On the contrary, he shares with him in his labours, and seems to participate in his pleasures; generous and persevering, he gives up his whole powers to the service of his master; though bold and intrepid, he represses the

natural vivacity and fire of his temper, and not only yields to the hand, but seems to consult the inclination, of his rider.

But it must continue to be matter of regret to every feeling mind, that these excellent qualities should be often shamefully abused in the most unnecessary exertions; and the honest labours of this noble animal thrown away in the ungrateful task of accomplishing the purposes of unfeeling folly, or lavished in gratifying the expectations of an intemperate moment.





THE CAMEL

Possesses the various qualities of the Horse, the Cow and the Sheep ; and is to the Arabian, in a great measure, what those useful creatures are to us. Its milk is rich and nourishing : and, being mixed with water, makes a wholesome and refreshing beverage, much used, by the Arabs in their journies ; The flesh of young Camels is also an excellent and wholesome food. Their hair or fleece, which falls off entirely in the spring, is superior to that of any other domestic animal, and is made into very fine stuffs, for clothes, coverings, tents, and other furniture.

The Arabian Camel, or Dromedary, is common in Arabia and all the northern parts of Africa, from the Mediterranean Sea to the river Niger ; and is infinitely more numerous, and more generally diffused, than the Camel : It is also much swifter, and is therefore chief. employed on business which requires despatch.

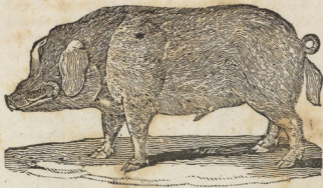
In Arabia, they are trained for running matches ; and in many places, for carrying couriers, who can go above a hundred miles a day on them, and that for nine or ten days together, over burning and uninhabitable deserts. They require neither whip nor spur to quicken their pace, but go freely, if gently treated ; and are much enlivened by singing or the sound of the pipe, which gives them spirits to pursue their journey.

They are mild and gentle at all times, except when they are in heat : At that period they are seized with a sort of madness ; they eat little, and will sometimes attempt to bite their masters ; so that it is not safe to approach him.

The Camel arrives at its full strength at the age of six years, and lives forty or fifty.

The females are not usually put to labour, but are allowed to pasture and breed at full liberty. Their time of gestation is nearly twelve months ; and they generally bring forth one at a birth.





THE HOG.

The hog has a divided hoof, like the animals called cattle; but the bones of his feet are really like those of a beast of prey, and a wild hog is a very savage animal. Swine have always been esteemed very untractable, stupid, and incapable of instruction; but it appears, by the example of the learned pig, that even they may be taught.

A hog is a disgusting animal; he is filthy, greedy, stubborn, and disagreeable, whilst alive, but very useful after his death. Hogs are voracious; yet where they find plentiful and delicious food, they are very nice in their choice. will refuse unsound fruit, and wait the fall of fresh; but hunger will force them to eat rotten putrid substances. A hog has a strong neck, small eyes, a long snout, a rough and hard nose, and a quick sense of smelling.

The parts of this animal are finely adapted to its mode of living. Nature has given it a form more prone than that of other animals. Its neck is strong and brawney; its snout is long and callous, well calculated for the purpose of turning up the earth for roots of various kinds, of which it is extremely fond; and it has a quick sense of smelling, by which it is enabled to trace out its food. It is naturally stupid, inactive, and drowsy; much inclined to in rease in fat, which is disposed in a different manner from that of other animals, and forms a thick and regular coat between the flesh and the skin. It is restless at a change of weather; and, during certain high winds, is so agitated, as to run violently, screaming horribly at the same time. It appears to foresee the approach of bad weather, as it previously carries straw in its mouth to its sty, prepares a bed, and seems endeavouring to hide itself from the impending storm.

Linnæus observes, that the flesh of the Hog is a wholesome food for those that use much exercise, but bad for such as lead a sedentary life. It is of universal use, and makes in various ways a constant article in the elegancies of the table. It is of great importance to this country, as a commerical nation; for it takes salt better than any other kind, and consequently is capable of being preserved longer: It is therefore of great use in ships, and makes a principal part of the provisions of the British Navy.



THE LION

Is eminently distinguished from the rest, as well in size and strength, as by his large and flowing mane.

This animal is produced in Africa, and the hottest parts of Asia.

It is observed of this animal, that its courage diminishes, and its caution and timidity are greater, in proportion as it approaches the habitations of the human race. Being acquainted with man, and the power of his arms, it loses its natural fortitude to such a degree, as to be terrified at the sound of his voice. It has been known to fly before women, and even children, and suffer itself to be driven away by them from its lurking places in the neighbourhood of their villages.

This alteration in the Lion's disposition sufficiently shews, that it will admit of a certain degree of education : And it is a well-known fact, that the keepers of wild

beasts frequently play with him, pull out his tongue, hold him by the teeth, and even chastise him without cause. The animal seems to bear all with a sullen kind of composure, and rarely retaliates this unmerited treatment. It is dangerous, however, to provoke him too far, or to depend upon his temper with too great security. Labat tells us of a gentleman who kept a Lion in his chamber, and employed a servant to attend it; who, as is usual mixed his blows with caresses. This ill-judged association continued for some time. One morning the gentleman was awakened by an unusual noise in his room, and drawing his curtains, he perceived it to proceed from the Lion, which was growling over the body of the unhappy man, whom it had just killed, and had separated his head from his body. The terror and confusion of the gentleman may be easily conceived: He flew out of the room; and, with the assistance of some people, had the animal secured from doing further mischief.

The form of the Lion is strikingly bold and majestic: His large and shaggy mane, which he can erect at pleasure, surrounding his awful front; his huge eye-brows; his round and fiery eye-balls, which upon the least irritation, seem to glow with peculiar lustre; together with the formidable appearance of his teeth,—exhibit a picture of terrific grandeur which no words can describe.

The length of the largest Lion is between eight and nine feet, the tail about four, and its height about four feet and a half. The female is about one-fourth part less, and without the mane

As the Lion advances in years, its mane grows longer and thicker. The hair on the rest of his body is short and smooth, of a tawny colour, but whitish on the belly.

The roaring of the Lion is loud and dreadful : When heard in the night, it resembles distant thunder. Its cry of anger is much louder and shorter.

The Lion seldom attacks any animal openly, except when compelled by extreme hunger ; In that case, no danger deters him ; but as most animals endeavour to avoid him, he is obliged to have recourse to artifice, and take his prey by surprise. For this purpose, he crouches on his belly in some thicket, where he waits till his prey approaches ; and then, with one prodigious spring, he leaps upon it at the distance of fifteen or twenty feet, and generally seizes it at the first bound. If he miss his object, he gives up the pursuit ; and, turning back towards the place of his ambush, he measures the ground step by step, and again lies in wait for another opportunity.—The lurking place of the Lion is generally chosen near a spring, or by the side of a river ; where he frequently has an opportunity of catching such animals as come to quench their thirst.

