

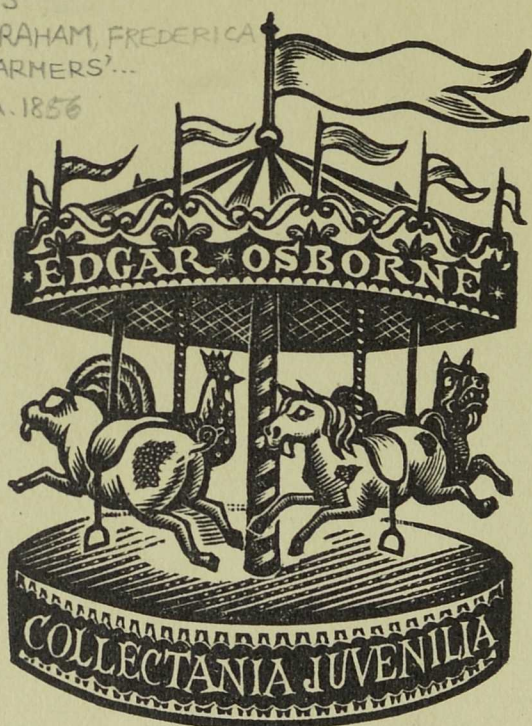
FARMER'S FRIENDS.



ILLUSTRATED BY HARRISON WEIR.

LONDON: ADDEY & CO. HENRIETTA ST. COVENT GARDEN.

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GRAHAM, FREDERICA
FARMERS?
ca. 1856



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FARMERS' FRIENDS

ILLUSTRATED

By HARRISON WEIR,

WITH

DESCRIPTIONS AND ANECDOTES BY FREDERICA GRAHAM.



LONDON:

ADDEY AND CO. HENRIETTA STREET,

COVENT GARDEN.

CONTENTS.

Drawn by HARRISON WEIR.

Engraved by

SHEEP	William Green.
THE COW	Greenaway and Wright.
THE PIG	William Measom.
COW AND CALF	William Measom.
HEATH RAM	William Green.
THE CALF	William Green.
SHEEP	William Measom.
THE BULL	Greenaway and Wright.

The Drawings printed by Leighton's Chromatic Process

SHEEP.

wears on, more and more sustaining its first sacrificial and typical character. It is impossible to pass over entirely without notice the many prophetic allusions and sublime illustrations of the character and teaching of the Messiah, drawn both from the sheep and shepherds of the eastern world : on these, beautiful as they are, we cannot now dwell.

The woolly sheep is found only in Europe, and in the more temperate parts of Asia ; and it has erroneously been supposed, that when transported into warmer climes the wool would lose its pristine character, and become long and hairy, as that of the sheep peculiar to those regions : but the breed of English sheep following the fortunes of the emigrants to New Holland and Van Diemen's Land, have exhibited no symptoms of any such transformation ; on the contrary, those distant colonies bid fair, ere long, to rival the mother country in the reputation she now enjoys as the first and greatest of wool-growing communities.

There is every reason to believe that, as in other barbarous lands, sheep were of no great account in Britain before the invasion of the Romans ; but that Cæsar soon knew and appreciated the value of the aboriginal animal, may be fairly deduced from the fact that he established a woollen manufactory at Winchester, which soon acquired so great a celebrity, that it supplied

SHEEP.

the finest and most expensive woollen cloth for the Imperial market and such as was only used for the festive garments of the luxurious patricians. Strangely enough, the appreciation of the uses of the sheep, not only as providing us with raiment, but with food, seems art and part of the advances of civilization. Calmucks and Cossacks at the present moment infinitely prefer horseflesh to mutton, and eat of this last from necessity, never from choice : in Spain, none but the very poorest consider it fit for food, and even in some parts of America there is a prejudice against it. In Great Britain, though always to a certain degree appreciated, it is comparatively lately—within the last 150 years—that the carcase of the sheep has been regarded as it deserves, and mutton has been brought to the highest degree of perfection ; while, singularly enough, as the flesh has improved and increased in value, the quantity and quality of the fleece has deteriorated in the same proportion.

The polished Romans lavished no small care on the improvement and cultivation of this animal ; so much so, that sheep and their accompaniments, shepherds and pastures, were all under the active supervision of government, and to them we owe the first improvement in the breed of an animal, which has since become the source of so great a portion of our manufacturing industry

SHEEP.

and commercial wealth. The Merinos, or Spanish breed of sheep, found great favour in their eyes; not so, however, in England, where they were not introduced until 1787, at which time great attention was paid to the improvement of English wool: but it was soon found that if the Merinos did not altogether degenerate in England, they certainly did not improve, and it was very shortly deemed expedient to give up the Spanish importation, and depend solely on the English breeds. Of these the varieties are sufficiently numerous, and so well known, that we need hardly sing the praises of the far-famed Southdown, or the deservedly prized New Leicester, or the more old-fashioned Dorsetshire, Lincolnshire, Cotswold, and Ryeland.



THE COW.

THERE is an old adage relating to certain over-sagacious people who are “wont to look too far into a millstone,” and such we cannot but consider those who must need diverge from the beaten track, and trace back the origin of domestic cattle to the bison and the buffalo. Very praiseworthy animals in their way, we doubt not, and possibly some distant relationship may subsist between themselves and the horned beasts who adorn the rich pastures of England; but we would humbly suggest that it is to the full as probable that the cattle appertaining “to Jubal the son of Lamech,” who, we are told in sacred writ, was “the father of such as dwell in tents and of such as have cattle,” were bulls, oxen, cows, and calves, as that they were bisons or buffaloes, zebus, or even aurochs.

The same is attested by legends mythological and historical; else why does the bull and not the buffalo hold the second place

THE COW.

among the signs of the zodiac?—an elevation he owes to the ancient Egyptians, for in those primeval days divine honours were paid to the milk-white steer who tilled the ground, and to the fruitful females of his race.

We are not destitute of good authority in support of our preconceived opinion on this head. Baron Cuvier, differing equally from those who are disposed to believe that the domestic kine originally sprang from the European and Indian buffalo, as from others who treat of them as arising from the aurochs or wild cattle of Germany and Poland, considers our present cattle identical with a species no longer, if ever, existing in a wild state, but which, by the decrees of Providence, have been for untold ages entirely subject to the dominion of the human race, as in the instance of the camel and dromedary.

Be this as it may, there is no data for the introduction of cows into the British Isles ; nor can authorities agree whether, if introduced at all, they came over in a state of domestication, or whether one or any of the numerous horned varieties which now abound have the honour and glory of being of the primeval race and stock.

One thing alone is certain, that the wild cattle, which are now restricted to the herd preserved by Lord Tankerville in his park

THE COW.

of Chillingham, and to a few of more doubtful pedigree kept by the late Duke of Hamilton at Chatelherault, were once prevalent throughout the land, though as population and cultivation advanced they were gradually exterminated, both in the south and in their strongholds in the Caledonian forests.

The manners and customs of this singular and isolated race have been so quaintly delineated in an ancient chronicle, that we would fain transcribe the passage verbatim: "This beast is so hateful and fearful of mankind that it will not feed of that grasse or those hearbes whereof he savoureth a man hath touched, no, not for many days together; and if by art or policy they happened to be taken alive, they will die with very sudden grief. If they meet a man presently they make face at him, fearing neither dogs, spears, nor other weapons."

The historical evidences of their early existence are not without interest. Fitz-stephen, a learned and jovial monk, who lived and wrote in the twelfth century, speaks as though the wild bull of the woods even then held sway in the large forests remaining in the neighbourhood of London. And in Warwick Castle the skull of an animal is still preserved and shown, which is said to the cranium of a wild dun cow slain in mortal combat by Guy Earl of Warwick.

THE COW.

In Scotland, moreover, tradition says that Robert the Bruce was like to be slain by one of these same fierce bulls, whom he encountered in the Forest of Caledon, and owed his life to the presence of mind of a follower, who interposed and slew the infuriated brute ; from which act it is said the now familiar name of “Turnbull” took its origin.



THE PIG.

THIS animal is one of the many who, in the long course of years, has been reclaimed from a wild state, and pressed into the service of mankind ; and save that in the lapse of centuries of domestication his tusks have diminished, and his ears have grown long and pendant, no material change has taken place in his outer man.

Though well-nigh exterminated, even in the New Forest, where alone they still are found in their pristine state of barbarism, the wild boar was in the olden time a well-known inhabitant of our English woods and forests ; and the chase of him was one of the many delightful and exciting pastimes enjoyed by our revered ancestors. That merciful monarch yclept the Conqueror was particularly partial to this sport, and whosoever was convicted of slaying or maiming any one of these, his royal favourites, paid the penalty of his guilt by having his eyes put out.

THE PIG.

In India, and in many parts of Europe, the practice of hunting the wild boar is still continued; for, despicable as the amusement of "pig-hunting" may appear to those whose acquaintance with the animal does not extend beyond a passing glance at the overfed, indolent tenant of the sty, the very danger of the pursuit enhances its merits in the eyes of the English Nimrods, by whom, in the first-named country, it is most enthusiastically followed. Not only is the wild boar light and agile in his movements, but he is fierce and powerful to boot, and well armed with long, curved, and sharp tusks, of which he makes good use in repelling the attacks of his enemies. Fearing neither man nor beast, he seldom flies far when disturbed, but turns undauntedly on his pursuers, and often commits sad havoc among the dogs, who close in upon him directly he is brought to bay; and in attempting to spear him, the hunter has good cause to be wary, lest he is unhorsed and wounded by his antagonist,

"Ere the dart lighten from his nervous arm."

Though the English may be considered as a tolerably practical people, it is not the custom among us to make any use of the pig during his lifetime; we are satisfied if he eat to repletion; we only ask him to become as fat as he conveniently, or inconveniently can, prior to the day of his death, then every atom of him is

THE PIG.

brought into play, in some form or other. In Minorca the hog is not allowed to revel in luxurious idleness, but he is converted into a beast of draught, and aids in the cultivation of the land. A cow, a sow, and two young horses, have been seen in that island yoked together ; and of the four, the sow drew the best. In some parts of Italy, also, swine are employed in hunting truffles ; a cord being tied round the hind leg of the finder, the beast is driven into the pastures, and like a dog in England trained for the same purpose, whenever he stops and begins to root up the earth, truffles are always to be found.

There have not been wanting some bright examples of “learned pigs,” to testify how shamefully we in general neglect the education of this animal,—

“For instinct varies, e’en in the grovelling swine,”

and many years ago the gamekeeper of Sir H. St. John Mildmay actually broke a black sow to find game, back, and stand as well as any pointer.

Selfish, indocile, and greedy, as we—having pandered to these vices—are apt to consider them, no animals have greater sympathy and affection for their own kind. The moment a pig gives the signal of distress, all his kinsfolk rush to his assistance, and they have been known to gather round a dog that teased them, and

THE PIG.

kill him on the spot. Enclose a male and female in a sty when young, and the chances are, if her companion be removed or slain, that the tender-hearted and "unprotected female" will droop and die of a broken heart.

Wind appears to have a great effect upon their nerves, for when it blows violently, they seem much agitated, and run screaming towards their sty, where they will heap up the straw as if to guard against the effects of the storm. Hence the adage common among country people, that "Pigs can see the wind."



COW AND CALF.

HAVING in a previous paper proved to our own satisfaction, if not to that of our readers, that wild cattle never could have been the progenitors of the mild and gentle race who low around our homesteads—else why did our ancestors seek to exterminate them as enemies, in lieu of preserving and conciliating them as friends?—we will now proceed to treat of

“The fair heifer balmy breathing near.”

It would unnecessarily weary the reader, not to mention our own sufferings under the infliction of so much prosaic matter, were we to enter into particulars of the appearance or habits of this well-known quadruped. We will therefore take it for granted that the said reader is acquainted with the fact, that in life this benevolent animal supplies our tables with cream, milk, cheese, and butter, and a hundred other delicacies of which these are the

COW AND CALF.

component parts ; at the expense, be it ever remembered, of her tender offspring : which said offspring, by way of reward, human selfishness, nine times out of ten, finds it in his heart to slay and eat, before it has well emerged from babyhood.

A dispassionate observer would imagine, that having served us in this disinterested manner during her short span of existence—fourteen years being the extent of the time that she usually sojourneth on earth, indeed at the age of ten the cow may justly be considered as *passée*,—that, like the Egyptians of old, when she came to die, we should at any rate testify our sense of her worth, by lavishing on her obsequies some portion of that pomp and magnificence, which when living we denied her.

Not so, however : it seems determined on all hands to make as much out of the cow as we possibly can, even to the very hairs of her head, which some pennywise genius discovered were of essential service in adding consistency and strength to the plaster partitions of our dwellings. It is by a mere chance, and only when, as it were, she slips through our covetous fingers, that she is permitted to die a natural death : the general rule is, that when her youth is past and beauty gone, she should be fattened and slain. It is not enough to make “mincemeat” of our humble servant,—by which expression if we remember right, the giant in

COW AND CALF.

nursery rhyme conveyed his idea of a sumptuous repast—but her hide we either convert into boots and shoes for our own use, or into trappings for her fellow-labourer the horse : her horns take the form of drinking-cups, knife-handles, combs, and are even capable of being cut and shaved into transparent plates for lanterns ;—an invention, with what truth we know not, which has been ascribed to King Alfred, of learned and blessed memory, who bethought himself of using lanterns of this description to preserve his candle timepieces from the wind. To make a long story short, as we have not space to enumerate half the uses of the defunct, her very bones constitute a cheap substitute for ivory, while her hoofs are melted down into the consistency of glue.

Bewick was right when he so tritely and simply remarked, “ that we are under great obligations to this class ;” and in our humble opinion it was not the least of them when, not a century ago, Dr. Jenner made the important discovery that even from her very diseases we might derive benefit. It is to the cow we owe the vaccine matter that shields and preserves us from the dread ravages of small-pox. To our ears the name has well-nigh lost its terrors, so immeasurably has this remedy ameliorated the disease ; but there are aged people yet alive who can recall

COW AND CALF.

the time when small-pox was both the scourge and plague of England ; when no mother thought her child her own till it had passed unharmed through this too often fatal malady, or dare rejoice in its smiling beauty, lest the fatal spots should mar its freshness, and stamp their indelible traces on its fair face.



GEORGE C. LEIGHTON

HEATH RAM.

THE mountainous tract of country running through the north-west part of Yorkshire, and southward towards Lancashire, is the birthplace of this hardy, black-faced, and wild-looking tribe. Formerly their coarse, shaggy wool, was as great a distinction between themselves and the southern breeds, as the blackness of both physiognomy and horns, and the fiery, sharp, and wild cast of their sparkling eyes : but since then a marked change and improvement in the quality of their outer garments has been superadded to their other good qualities, happily without any detriment to the sturdy constitutions, which enable them to endure the severity of the cold and wet, to which they are exposed on the black and barren heaths they inhabit.

The natural instinct of these sheep in foreseeing the approach of a storm is remarkable ; and it has often happened that, in anticipation of hard weather, they have come down from the

HEATH RAM.

uplands to take refuge near the cottage of their shepherd. And in their endeavour to secure themselves under the shelter of some neighbouring hill, whole flocks have frequently been buried for so many days under a covering of snow, that hunger has compelled them to gnaw each other's wool, and yet they have eventually been dug out without any material injury. In the north of England this is not an unfrequent catastrophe.

“ For from the bellowing east,
In this dire season, oft the whirlwind's wing
Sweeps up the burden of whole wintry plains
At one wide waft, and o'er the hapless flocks,
Hid in the hollow of two neighbouring hills,
The billowy tempest whelms.”

The numerous flocks which roam at will in the wilder and more hilly regions of the United Kingdoms, of whom the heath or black-faced breed may be taken as a specimen, are far more independent of the shepherd's care, and exhibit much greater self-reliance in the hour of danger, than the timid race inhabiting the plains; and a ram will boldly attack a single dog or fox, and generally come off victorious. If their enemies are many in number, the whole flock draw up in battle array, the females and young ones taking refuge in the centre, while the males occupy the foremost rank: thus an armed front is presented on all sides,

HEATH RAM.

and far from taking flight, as might be expected, they await with firmness the approach of their enemy. When their adversary draws near, the indignant rams, with unshaken courage, dart out upon him, and with such impetuosity and force, as to lay him dead at their feet, unless, deeming “discretion the better part of valour,” he save himself by a timely retreat. A single ram has been known to engage a bull; and his forehead being much harder than that of any other animal, he seldom fails to conquer: for the bull, by lowering his head, receives the stroke of the ram between his eyes, which usually brings him to the ground.

In the mountains of Wales the sheep enjoy as much liberty, and are almost as agile, as their contemporary the goat. So wild are they that they rarely assemble in large flocks, but graze in parties of from eight to twelve. One of the number is always stationed on some elevated point, to warn his fellows of the approach of danger. This sentinel keeps a strict look-out, and should he observe any one approaching too near, the signal is given in a moment; and at the sound of his shrill cry or whistle twice or thrice repeated, they all scour away with inconceivable rapidity, and seek for shelter in the steepest and most inaccessible parts of the mountains.

So strong is the attachment of sheep to the place where they are

HEATH RAM.

born and bred, that it is a well-authenticated fact, that when any of these Welshmen are sold and carried into the neighbouring county of Brecknockshire, their new owners are obliged to watch them carefully; for should the wind chance to blow from the south, and the sheep once scent the gales borne from their native hills, the chances are that they will contrive to escape. Their flight is never heedlessly commenced; but after standing meditating awhile, with their faces anxiously turned southward, and sniffing to make sure of the right direction, off they all set at full speed, and never stop till they have reached their former homes.



THE CALF.

THE young of any animal are always to a certain degree insignificant, and their history does not so much relate to their present condition as to the part they are expected to play in future ; and as we have already dwelt on the fate that awaits the calf, who is permitted to grow up and undertake the multifarious duties of a mother and a cow, and cursorily glanced at the short-lived destinies of those who only come into this world to be speedily converted into veal and sweetbreads, we propose, with the kind permission of our readers, to take that license which is usually only allowed to poets, and treat of the young personage here portrayed as one who, if allowed to speak for himself, would, in the language of the expostulating Ox in Gay's fable, thus describe his future lot :—

“ Urged by the stimulating goad,
I drag the cumbrous waggon's load :
'Tis mine to tame the stubborn plain,
Break the stiff soil, and house the grain.”

THE CALF.

Curiously enough, the value of this animal to the tiller of the ground very much depends on the colour ; the grey, brindled, or white, are never considered fit for work, but are forthwith fattened and consigned to the tender mercies and reeking axe of the butcher ; while the red—and the redder the ox is the better—passes the first and best years of his life in the service of the husbandman. He is, however, never allowed to attain a ripe old age, but he whose toil has clothed the land

“ With all the pomp of harvest,”

after a short respite from his labours, passed in fattening on oil-cake and other stimulating dainties, lays down his life to supply his master's table, or the shambles in the public market, with that choice dainty which even the voice of melody* has proclaimed to be the favourite refecton of her Majesty's liege subjects.

The number of these animals killed and eaten in the lapse of one year is almost incredible to those who have not perused the last few pages of M. Soyer's “ Modern Housewife,” where that imaginative individual, in concluding his culinary instructions, sums up and brings before the eye of the contrite reader the exact numbers of the flocks and herds, which in the course of an

* “ The Roast Beef of Old England ;” an air often played on public occasions when dinner is served.

THE CALF.

ordinary lifetime it is probable he will devour to his own share. In Smithfield alone in 1846, setting aside other markets, 210,747 head of fatted cattle were sold and slain ; while a century ago, long before the better plan of killing in the country and sending the carcasses to London per railroad was even dreamt of, 76,210 "beasts" were sold in the same market.

We might fill volumes instead of pages, and give offence to innumerable agriculturists, and, what is worse, betray no small amount of ignorance ourselves, were we to enter on the "vexed question" of the respective merits and relative good qualities of the different breeds of cattle, long-horns, short-horns,

"The cow with the crumpled horn,"

and all the varieties produced by domestication. During the last half century agricultural associations have had a large share in promoting the establishment and preservation of distinct breeds in particular districts, though it must be confessed that the mania for feeding to repletion, and exhibiting fat beauties and colossal monsters, has been carried a little too far.

The cattle from the islands and Highlands of Scotland, thousands of whom annually find their way to the English market, are a peculiarly small race, and partake much of the wildness of

THE CALF.

the land and scenery mid which they are born and bred. They are said to derive their name of “Kyloe oxen” from the kyles, or ferries, across which they have to swim to the mainland. The great majority of them are black, while their relatives from county Galloway, who are equally brought to fatten in the rich pastures of the south, are as invariably of a reddish brown hue.



SHEEP.

THE Heath and Welsh sheep, of whom we have already spoken, equally with those of the Highlands, lay claim to the honour of being descended from the wild or aboriginal breed of these islands. And the “ Ettrick Shepherd” bears testimony to the prevalence of the same home-sickness among the Scottish flocks, as is so strangely exhibited by others of the old stock. This of itself alone is, we think, sufficient to redeem at least this section of the race from the charges of folly and stupidity so often brought against them.

The Ettrick Shepherd’s black ewe certainly evinced something more than instinct in her calculations. She had been transported to a farm, nine days’ journey from the place of her nativity ; here she did not choose to tarry, but set off back again. A shepherd was sent after her, but she travelled faster than the man, though often delayed by her lamb, who was not so good a

SHEEP.

traveller as her mamma, and required to be urged on by perpetual and impatient bleatings. She, unluckily, came to Stirling on the day of the annual fair, and judging it imprudent to venture through the crowd with her lamb, she halted on the north-side of the town. But next morning when all was quiet, a little after the break of day, she was observed stealing quietly through the streets in apparent terror of the dogs, who ran prowling about. Again and again she had been stopped, but it was vain to attempt to detain her; the last and greatest difficulty she had to encounter was at a toll-bar, the keeper of which, thinking she had strayed, was determined not to let her pass. She tried to break through by force whenever he opened the gate, but he always prevented her; at length she turned patiently back, and taking some more circuitous route, attained her object, and reached her home betimes one morning. Her strong affection was appreciated; her old master bought her back again, and she remained on her native farm till she died of old age in her seventeenth year.

The ancients attached some superstitious value to sheep of this dusky hue, for during the prolonged siege of Troy the Grecian heroes again and again propitiated the favour of their gods by offering them in sacrifice:—

“A sable ewe each leader should provide,
Each with a sable lambkin by her side.”

SHEEP.

But to return. The wool of the tiny Shetland breed is peculiarly fine ; the whole fleece does not weigh more than two pounds ; these little animals are never shorn, but about the beginning of June the wool is pulled off, without the smallest pain or injury to its wearer, who still retains a covering of a kind of long hair, peculiar to themselves, but well suited to the cold of that northern latitude.

We know not how it may be in the north, but in the south sheep-washing always preludes sheep-shearing, both of which are great events in their way, and both equally unacceptable to this “soft, fearful people,” who resist the plunge into deep water with all their might and main, and fill the air with the din of their complaints and bleatings. Many days do not elapse, and the remembrance of this alarm has hardly subsided, before they are doomed to undergo all the horrors of being shorn. Bound hand and foot, they give themselves up for lost, under the impression, we imagine*, that murder and not robbery is contemplated.

“ When of its robe bereft
By needy man, that all-depending lord,
How meek, how patient, the mild creature lies !
What softness in its melancholy face,
What dumb-complaining innocence, appears ! ”

SHEEP.

The lambs, meanwhile penned up, are undergoing the horrors of a temporary separation from their tender mothers, and their reunion is so well-described by the Ettrick Shepherd, that we must subjoin the passage, though reluctantly omitting his remarks on the wonderful recognition of voice between parent and child :—

“The moment that a lamb hears its dam’s voice, it rushes from the crowd to meet her ; but instead of finding the rough, well-clad, comfortable mamma, which left it a few hours ago, it meets a poor, naked, deplorable-looking creature. It wheels about, and uttering a loud, tremulous bleat of perfect despair, flies from the frightful vision. The mother’s voice arrests its flight—it returns—flies and returns again, generally for ten or a dozen times, before the reconciliation is complete.”



THE BULL.

WE have entered so fully upon the history, origin, merits and uses of the weaker members of the Bovine family, that but little remains to be said of the head of the race, the patriarch of the herd,—“ The brawny bull.”

In an historical point of view, he is a far more interesting object than when an unlucky chance brings us face to face with him in some retired pasture, and awful visions of being tossed and gored by the impatient fiery brute flit before our mental vision. Neither are we particularly partial to him when in the farm-yard. The very idea of his being cribbed and cramped within a narrow stall, and chained up by a ring passed through the cartilage of his nose, increases the reverential awe with which we regard him, and we are glad there is a half-door between ourselves and “ Selim,” while we secretly wonder who the bold man can be who affixed that more useful than ornamental appendage to his nostrils.

THE BULL.

We have before alluded to the divine honours paid by the Egyptians to these animals, on account of the essential service they rendered in the cultivation of the ground. To have adored such a multiplicity of gods, might have been found inconvenient ; so, though they all enjoyed a certain degree of veneration and respect, one was selected from the common herd, and invested with all the attributes of a sovereign deity. Apis was the name under which he was worshipped ; two magnificent temples were dedicated to his service ; extraordinary honours were paid him while living, and still greater on the occasion of his death. All Egypt then put on mourning, which was not laid aside until a successor to this their god was forthcoming. It was no easy task to find a bull with all the requisite characteristics, of a white and crescent-shaped star upon his forehead, the figure of an eagle upon his back, and that of a beetle on his tongue. Was it not the taint of this false worship, contracted during their sojourn in Egypt, which prompted the idolatrous Israelites to rebel against the Most High, and bow down before a molten calf ?

Authorities differ as to whence originally sprung a pastime so totally opposed to this superstitious veneration as the bull-fights, a species of entertainment now almost exclusively belonging to the Spanish nation ; which ceremony, by some strange perversity

THE BULL.

of reasoning, they profess to hold in honour of the Virgin Mary, and of St. Luke the Evangelist, who certainly, in the earliest scriptural paintings, is always represented with a bull by his side. The thunders of the Vatican, the prohibitions of their best and wisest monarchs, have alike proved unavailing, when directed against this relic of Moorish barbarism, still so dear to the heart of the Spaniard, that when

“The lists are op’d, the spacious area cleared,
Thousands on thousands piled are seated round ;
Long ere the first loud trumpet’s note is heard
No vacant space for lated wight is found ;
While dons, grandees, but chiefly dames, abound.”

We may thank the most unpopular of our English sovereigns, John, for the introduction into England of the mean and cowardly entertainment of bull-baiting, in comparison with which bull-fighting is a humane and merciful sport ; for in the latter instance the victim is allowed to fight for his life, free and unshackled ; and a bull of the pure Castilian breed will, ere he is laid low, gore unto the death seven or eight of the horses, whose riders “ fight for fame.”

In bull-baiting, on the contrary, the whilom “ lord of lowing herds” is never allowed a fair chance, but attached to a stake by a collar round his neck, with but some four or five yards of

THE BULL.

liberty, the tips of his horns cut off or covered with leather, he is exposed to the attacks of dogs of a peculiar breed, and remarkable for their courage. The chief aim of these dogs is to catch the bull by the nose and hold him down, while the bull as assiduously endeavours to shield that tender point by thrusting it close to the ground, and to revenge himself by tossing his assailants. To the nation's credit be it recorded, that these disgraceful exhibitions have no longer a place among our national sports ; the taste for them has died out ; the very remembrance of them is now "but as a tale that is told."

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