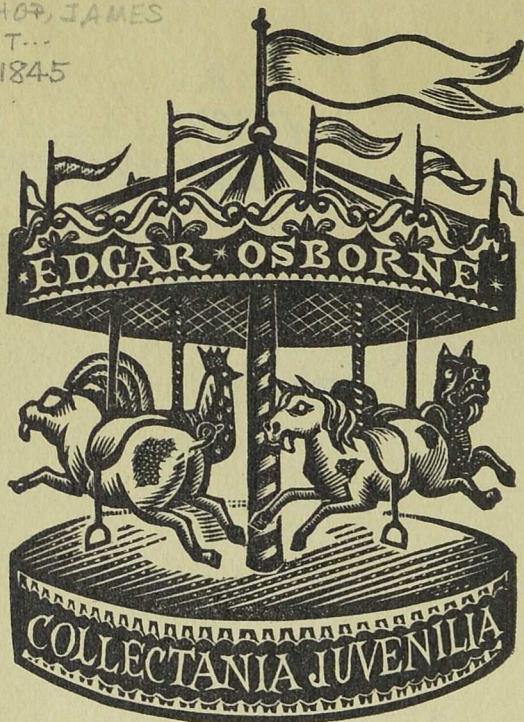


The cover features a dark, textured background with an intricate, embossed decorative border. The border consists of repeating ornate motifs, including stylized floral and scrollwork designs, arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

A VISIT
TO THE
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

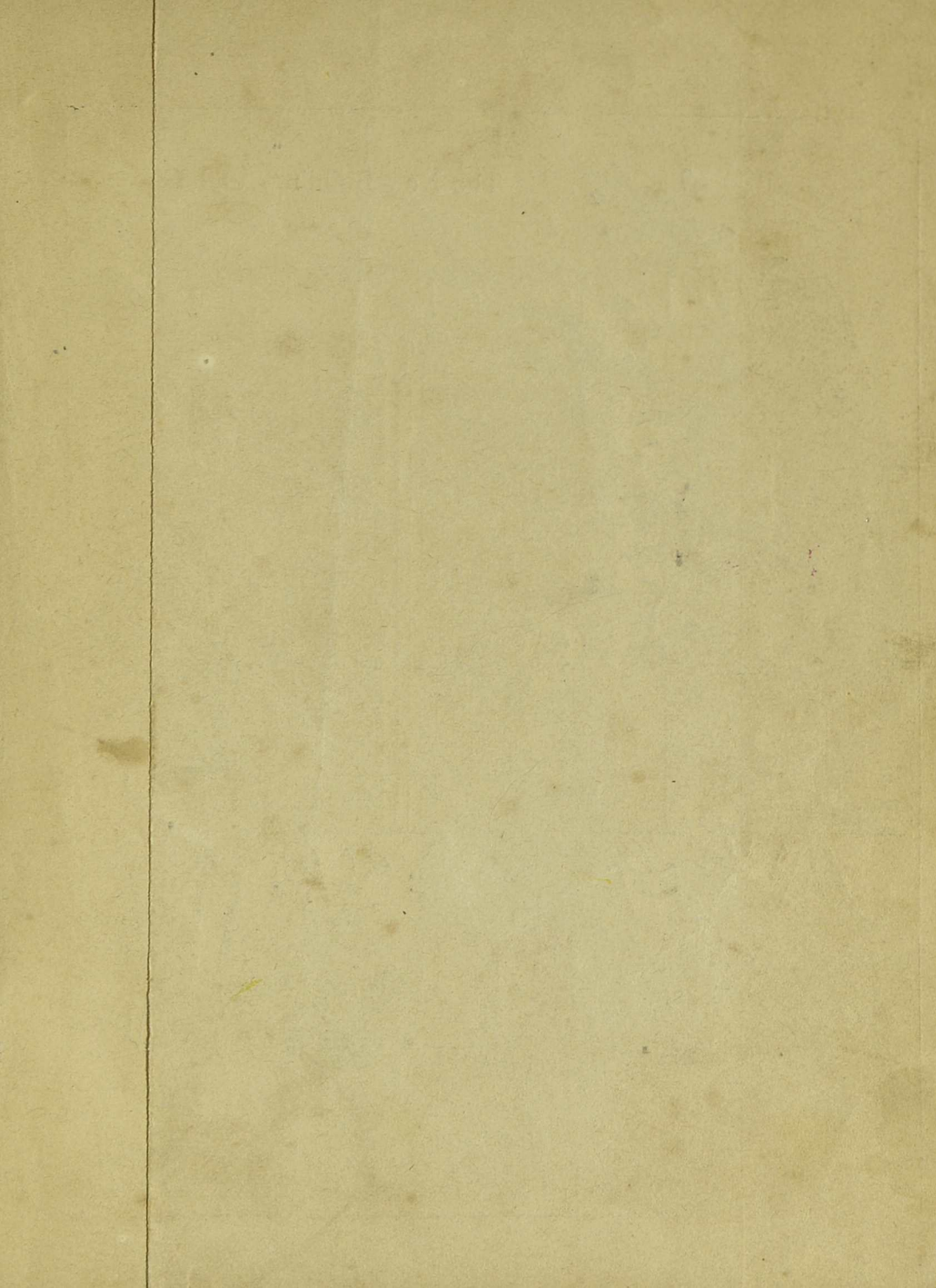
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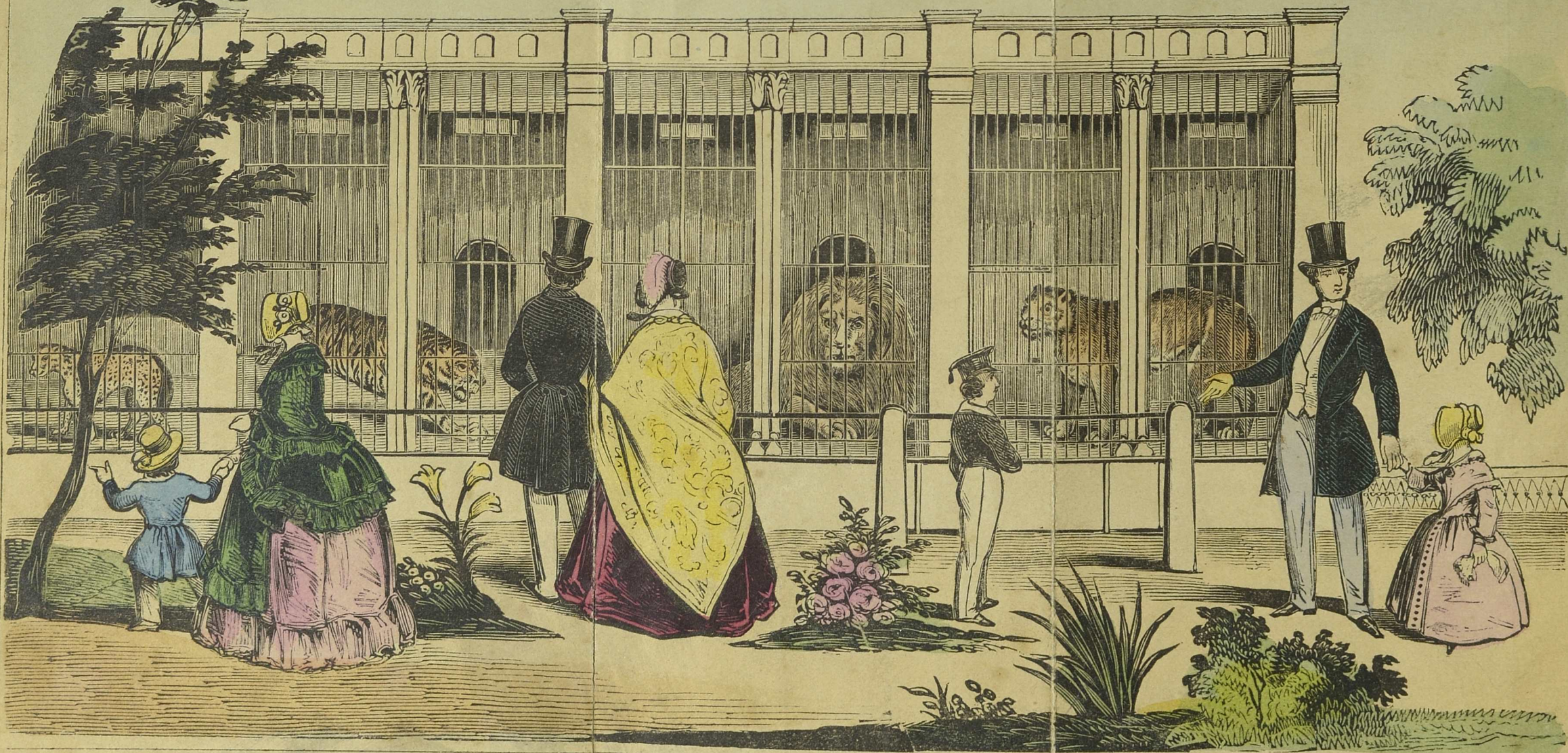
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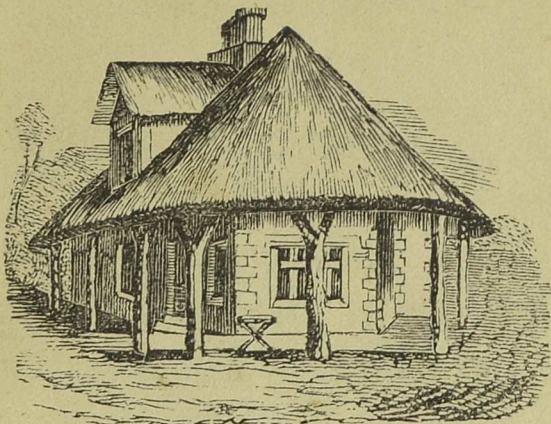
The New Building, under the Terrace, constructed for the Lions, Tigers, and other similar Animals. Page 17.



A VISIT
TO THE
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS,
IN THE REGENT'S PARK:

INTERFERSED WITH
A FAMILIAR DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND HABITS OF THE MANY
RARE AND INTERESTING ANIMALS EXHIBITED THEREIN.

A
PLEASING
COMPANION
TO THE
JUVENILE
VISITORS



TO THIS
DELIGHTFUL
PLACE
OF
FASHIONABLE
RESORT.

BY JAMES BISHOP.

SIXTH EDITION, ENTIRELY RE-WRITTEN,
WITH FORTY ACCURATE ENGRAVINGS,—TWELVE OF WHICH ARE NEATLY COLOURED.

LONDON:
THOS. DEAN & Co. THREADNEEDLE-STREET.

Price One Shilling,



A VISIT

TO

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS,

REGENT'S PARK.



“MY dear Richard,” said Mr. Bacon, to his son, one evening, “to-morrow will be your birth-day; and I propose giving you and Clarissa a treat, by taking you both to London, by an early train, to see the fine collection of animals now exhibiting in the Zoological Gardens, in the Regent’s-park.”

“Oh! thank you, papa,” replied Richard, “that will be indeed a treat.” And without further remark he left the room, to convey the welcome tidings to his sister.

Next morning, the young folks were awake at an earlier hour than usual; and the time that

elapsed between that and breakfast seemed to them particularly lingering.

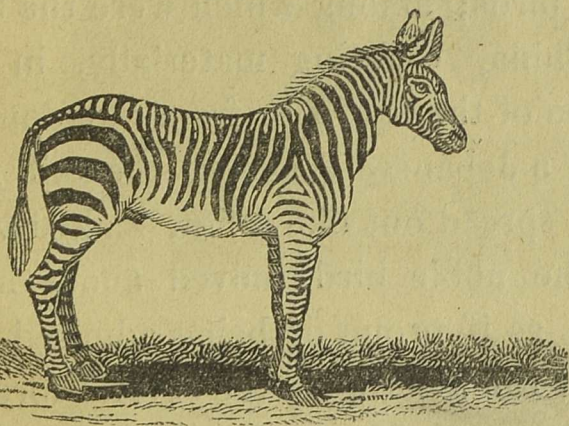
Breakfast was soon over, for they felt but little appetite that morning; and within as short a time as preparation and dress admitted, Mr. Bacon and Miss and Master Bacon were on their way to London, in a train of the Great Western Railway, which passed by the town in which they resided.

So full were the young folks of anticipations of what they should behold in the Zoological Gardens, of which they had heard so much, that even the rapidity of the railway train seemed scarcely equal to their wishes; and on their arrival at the Paddington terminus, they evinced the greatest impatience to reach the Regent's-park, to which a cab soon conveyed them.

On entering the Gardens, the young folks were struck with surprise and delight at the beautiful scenes which were presented to the sight in every direction; the flower beds and borders, of all sizes and forms, contained the choicest and loveliest

flowers, in full bloom; the walks were broad and neatly gravelled; and the cages, enclosures, and sheds, in which the animals were confined, were erected in the prettiest and most tasteful style.

Our visitors, following the course directed by the guide book, took the right hand path, leading to the Pheasant aviaries, and passed by a pretty lawn, bordered with flower-beds, the grass-plot of which was being rolled by a heavy iron roller, drawn by a striped animal, of the Zebra kind. To



this, Mr. Bacon directed the attention of the young folks.—“Animals of the Zebra kind,” said he, “are considered so

wild as to be untameable: here, however, art and discipline have rendered useful an animal hitherto considered intractable.”

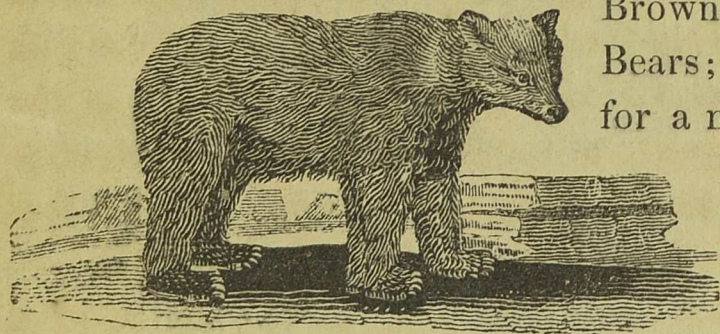
Clarissa was much pleased at the striped appearance of the Zebra's skin, and said she should much like to have one to ride about upon; but her papa gave her to understand that, pretty as the Zebra appeared, it could not be trusted with any but its keeper, being sometimes very obstinate, and upon such occasions very difficult to manage.

Pursuing their walk, they came to the Pheasant aviaries, in which were several varieties of the gold, silver, and pencilled Pheasants, and other elegant foreign birds; among which were the Silk Fowls, from China, differing materially, in the silky appearance of the feathers, from our domestic fowls; and a Japanese Peacock, the tail feathers of which, spread out like a fan, looked very splendid, as the noble bird moved about in a stately manner, as if proud of being admired.

At the end of the aviaries, were several foreign Foxes; and, what took Master Bacon's attention, a tailless Cat; which animal, a keeper informed him, had never possessed that usual appendage.

Returning from the Aviaries, the party walked on toward the Terrace, now considerably extended in size, and affording a fine view of the gardens, laid out in lawns, flower beds, ponds, and islands, intersected with a variety of ornamental erections, that quite delighted the young visitors.

Close to the terrace, the young party beheld a square place, inclosing a paved pit, with a high pole upright in the centre: here they saw several

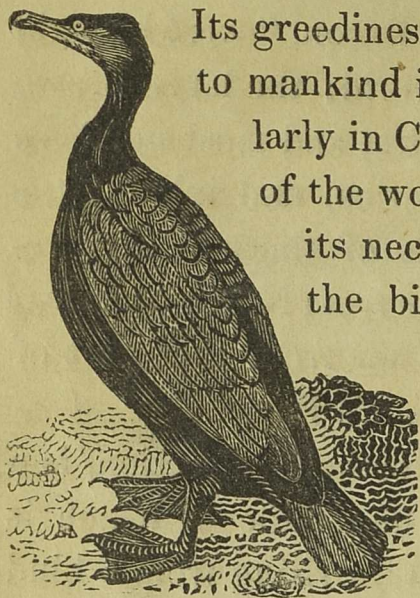


Brown and Black Bears; and were, for a moment, alarmed by seeing two of them climb up

the pole, as readily as a cat would run up a tree. Their fears ceased when they found that the Bears could not come nearer, and then they were much amused at their tricks. Mr. Bacon, with a stick, kept for the purpose, gave the Bears a bun each, which they eat, and then looked about for more.

“These Bears,” said Mr. Bacon, “were brought from remote parts of the world; the large Brown Bears are found in the coldest and most northern parts of Europe and America, and inhabit the vast forests and mountains of those dreary regions. The Black Bears are from North America; and the Cinnamon Bears come from that part of North America called Hudson’s Bay.

Below the terrace, in a northerly direction, is a Lawn, neatly enclosed, in the middle of which is a pond, with a pretty fountain rising from a kind of rocky grotto, playing its jet of water in a fine rain-like shower. In the pond are many curious sorts of foreign and British Swans, Geese, Ducks, and other water fowl, wild and tame. Among these, Mr. Bacon directed Richard’s attention to the Cormorant, an erect-looking bird, something about the size of a goose, with sooty-coloured plumage: “That bird,” said Mr. Bacon, “may be called the glutton; it lives upon fish, but eats so many at a time, as to become almost gorged.



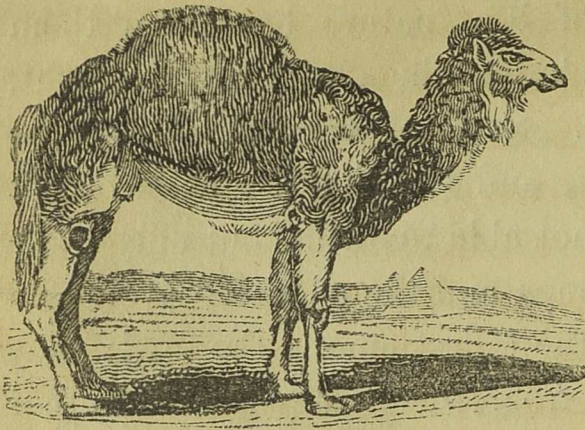
Its greediness, however, is made useful to mankind in some countries, particularly in China, and the eastern parts of the world. A cord is tied around its neck, not so tight as to injure the bird, but sufficiently so to prevent its swallowing.—

With several Cormorants perched on the edges of his boat, the fisherman rows to that part of the stream that he thinks will suit his purpose; here he sets to work: the birds, previously taught, dive down, catch each a fish, and bring it to their master. This is repeated till enough is caught: the strings are then taken off their necks, and they are rewarded with a plentiful share of the fish taken.”

“The greater part of the birds in this and the other ponds,” said Mr. Bacon, “are water fowl, and subsist principally in the water; to suit them

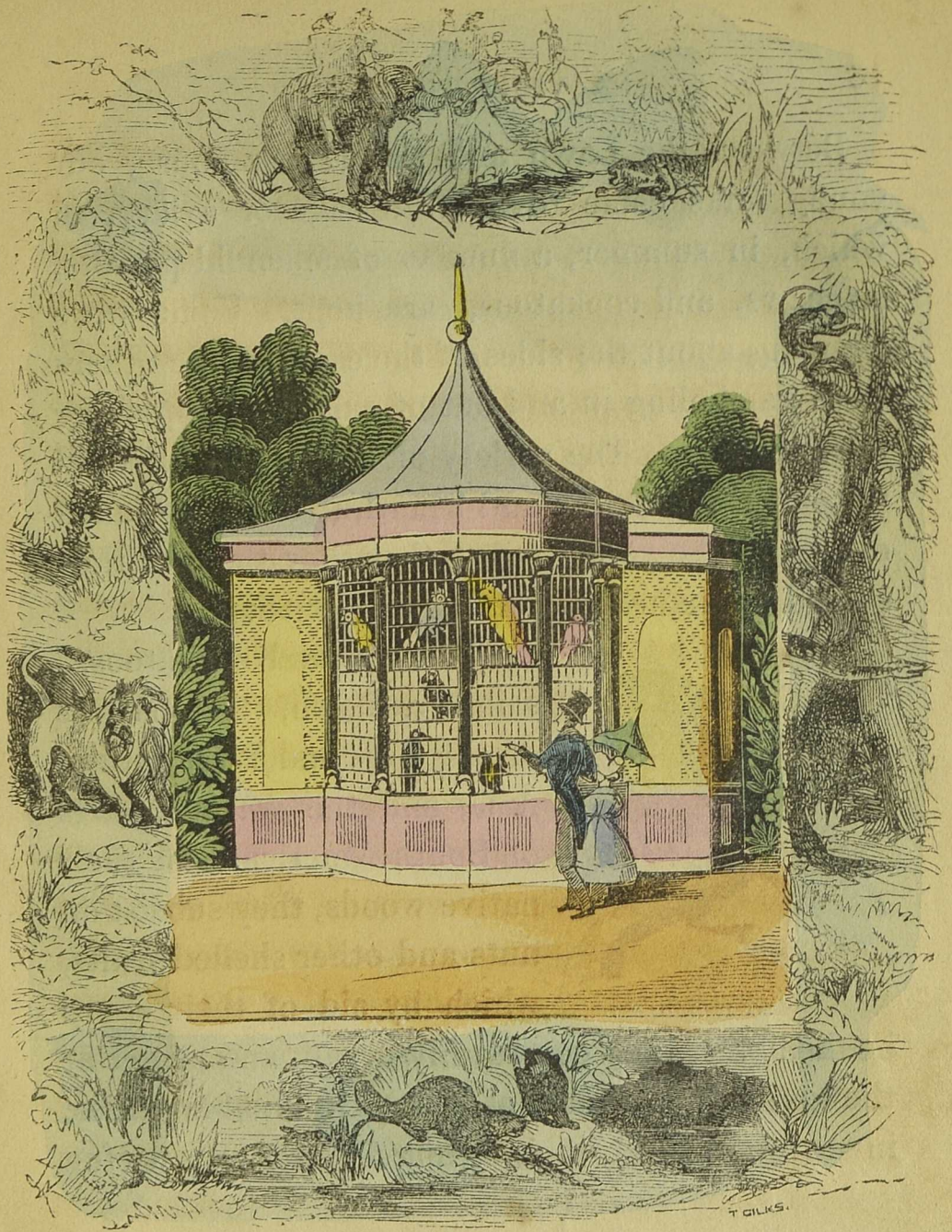
for which mode of life, nature has given them webbed feet, and clothed them with a close, light, feathery covering. Such of these birds, as the Cranes, the Stork, and the Herons, as have not webbed feet, are not able to swim, but only wade along marshy swamps and the edges of rivers and ponds. These are the tallest among the fowl; they subsist on worms, frogs, small serpents, and other reptiles and insects. Another difference between the wading and swimming birds, is that most of the swimmers have a broad bill, like that of the goose and duck; while the waders mostly have a long narrow bill, like the snipe. In all these instances, you see the goodness of Providence, in furnishing every creature with the means of best enjoying the life granted by its Creator."

Decending from the Terrace, the young visitors came to the Llama house, in which were a Camel and Dromedary, which Mr. Bacon noticed, as exhibiting another instance of the goodness of Providence in furnishing the natives of the East with animals in every way well suited to their wants.



Obliged, in trading with nations a distance from each other, to go over immense deserts, the Eastern people want a beast of burden whose endurance

of toil and thirst can brave the difficulties of the journey.--The Camel and the Dromedary, similar in appearance, except that the Camel has but one hump on its back, while the Dromedary has two, possess these powers of endurance in an extraordinary degree, being furnished by nature with an internal bag, capable of containing ten to twelve gallons of water, which they can drink at pleasure; and thus can travel some hundred miles without requiring a fresh supply. Their spreading feet are well fitted for travelling over sandy places; while their great strength and docility to their masters, render them equally valuable and indispensable.



T. GILKS.

Between the Lawn and the Llama house, our young folks came to a large cage or aviary, in which, in summer, a number of splendid parrots, maccaws, and cockatoos, are kept. Some were climbing about the sides of the cage; while others were gamboling in and out of a double hoop slung from the top. The variety of kinds, and splendid tints of these choice and beautiful birds, so much delighted the young folks, that they thought they should never be tired of looking at them.



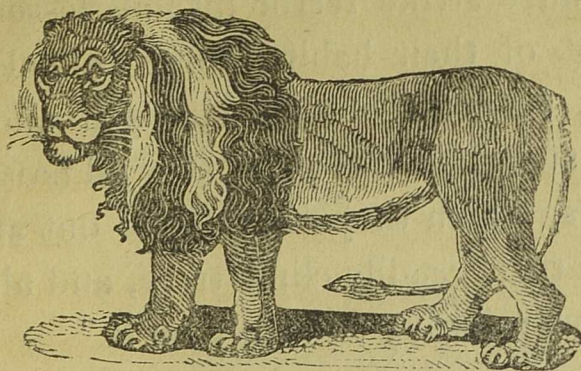
“Parrots and cockatoos,” said Mr. Bacon, “are natives of the East and West Indies, Asia, and the warmer parts of South America. In their native woods, they subsist on nuts and other shelled fruits, which by aid of their sharp hooked bills, they can readily break, and so get at the kernels; in which, as well as in climbing trees, in search of food, their strong feet are very useful.

Master Bacon having expressed a wish to see the Lions and Tigers, his papa now turned towards the new dens lately constructed under the noble terrace, at an expense of some thousand pounds. The building is of stone, divided into six compartments; some again divided into smaller dens. At the back of each den, is a sleeping room, well littered with clean straw, which is found to be far preferable, in promoting the health of the animals, to the old plan of warming by artificial means.

Just as our young folks approached the first division, in which were a noble lion and lioness, a servant of the establishment passed them with a basket on his arm, in which were shins of beef, shoulders of mutton cut in two, and other similar pieces of meat, each weighing from about three to six pounds. As it was evidently feeding time, the young folks eagerly watched the man's movements. The first den he came to, he unfastened an iron rail at the bottom of the door, and sticking a hook into a shin of beef, he jirked it through the small

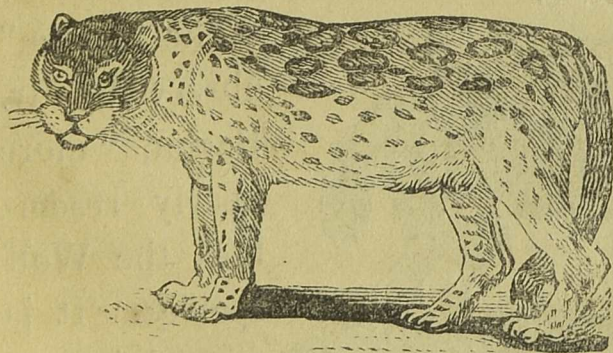
opening into the den. The moment the lion beheld it, he sprung forward, and darted his talons into the meat, just as a cat would fix her claws upon a mouse, and commenced devouring it with a similar avidity. The strong bones of the joints were as readily crushed by the stronger teeth of the lion, as those of the mouse would have been by the teeth of the cat, to the surprise of the youthful visitants, who could not repress a shudder at the ideas which the circumstance called forth.

“In this stately building,” observed Mr. Bacon, “you have a Lion and Lioness, two Bengal Tigers, two Leopards, a Chetah, or hunting Leopard, and a Puma; all animals of the cat, or feline kind, of powerful strength and ferocious habits. In the forests and immense plains of Asia and Africa, where these animals range at pleasure, they are indeed to be feared. Between the Lion and Tiger, in their native wilds, a terrific combat, originating probably in a dispute for prey, sometimes takes place; and then, indeed, these powerful animals exert their amazing strength to the utmost.”



“There,” continued Mr. Bacon, pointing to the stately Lion and Lioness, “is the mighty king of beasts, with his royal consort.—

The Lion, you observe, has a graceful mane, which adorns his stately shoulders, and gives him a very majestic aspect,—a dignity, in which the Lioness has no share, she being without that ornament.



“And there, also, are the stately Panther and noble Leopards, whose ferocious aspect proclaim them to be the

dreaded tyrants of the Asian and African forests;

their very appearance strike terror into all lesser animals. In most of their habits, these animals resemble the Cat, except that their strength and ferocity are much superior: like puss, they all have strong sharp claws, which they can stretch out at pleasure; most of them readily climb trees, and all seize their prey by springing suddenly on it."

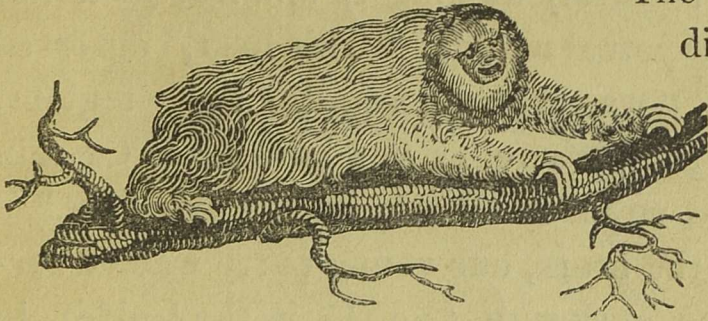
Our party now proceeded to view the eastern side of the new building appropriated to the other animals of the Cat and Wolf kinds; and here, in similar but smaller compartments were Spotted and Striped Hyenas, Black Bears, Sloth Bears, a Cape Hunting Dog, and several Leopards.



"The Hyena," observed Mr. Bacon, "more nearly resembles the Wolf species. It is a cruel, intractable animal, and has a snarl which adds to its savage aspect.

“These Bears abound in the American forests. They live well in the summer; but in winter they retire to hollow trees, where, in a state of repose, with one of their hind legs in the mouth, they pass that dreary season without any kind of fond.

“The Sloth Bear differs from all other Bears, in being the idlest of the race:



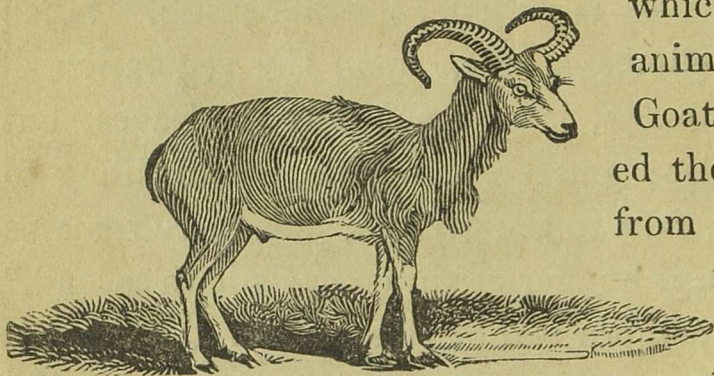
indeed, idleness is its chief characteristic. When this bear climbs a tree, upon the vegetation of which it subsists, it eats not only the leaves, but the bark also; and then, unable or unwilling to descend, it falls to the ground, and there remains inactive, until hunger again compels it to ascend.”

At the northern end of this part of the dens, is a new enclosure, fitted up with baths and other conveniences, for two Bears. Here, at present, are

Sketch

a Malayan, or Sun-Bear, whose lengthened tongue seems made for obtaining its favourite food, honey, which it procures by thrusting its long tongue in the bees' nest; and a White Polar Bear, the latter of which was continually bathing in the bath, or tank, and restlessly walking to and fro, as if impelled to perpetual motion. "This Bear," observed Mr. Bacon, "was brought from the Polar regions, the dreary part, where, as you have read, Captain Ross passed so many months amid eternal ice."

Leaving the bears, our young party walked forward to the enclosure (No. 15 in the Guide), in



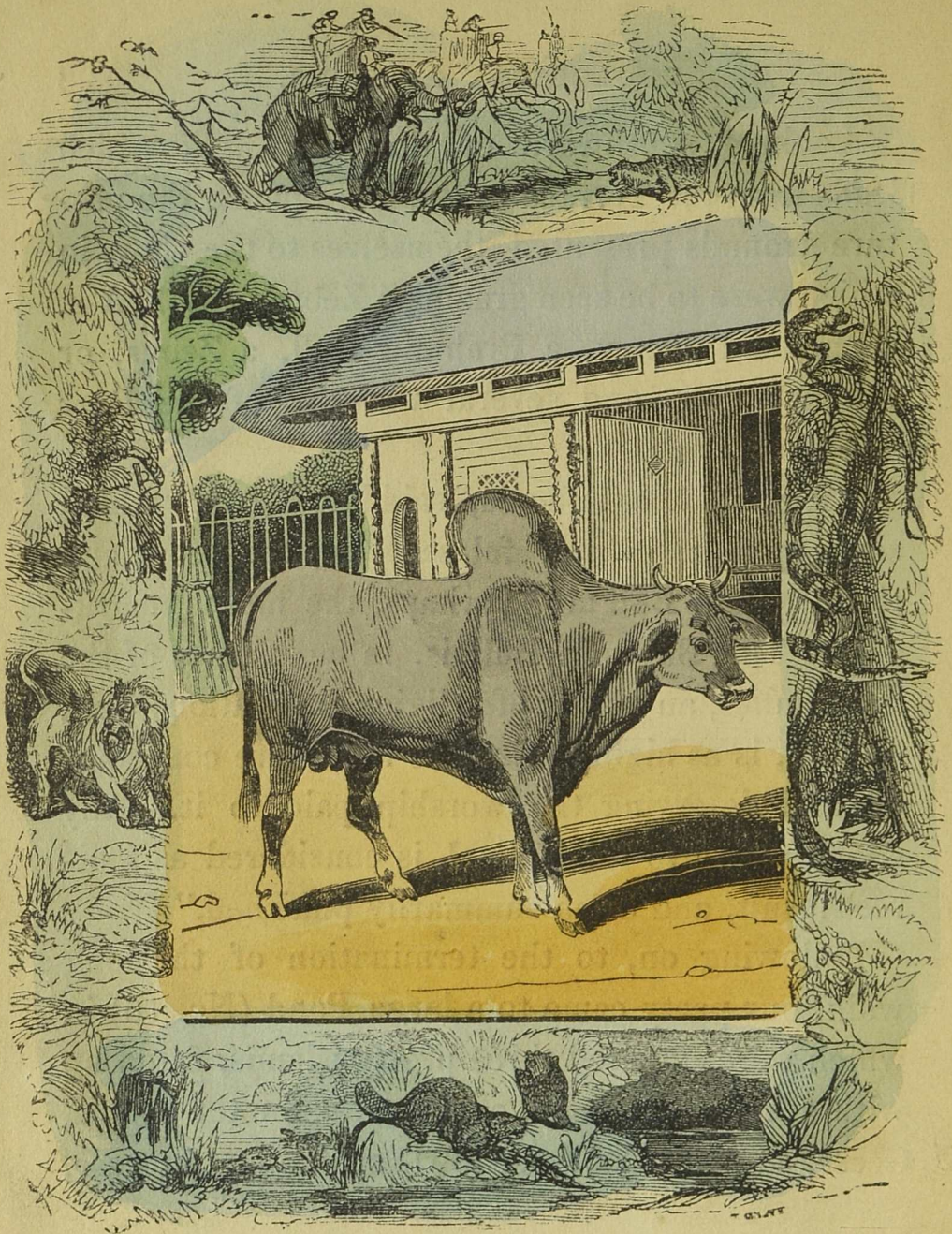
which was an animal of the Goat kind, called the Moufflon, from Italy, and remarkable as being the original

parent of the sheep tribe; there were, also, several Geese, from the Sandwich Islands.

Looking southward of the long walk which leads from the Terrace to the large pond, the pasture grounds presented themselves to the view, in which were to be seen grazing a Zebra, a Wild Ass, a Shetland Poney, a Brahmin Bull, a Zebus, or Barbary Cow, and several varieties of the Deer and Goat kinds.

“Among those animals,” said Mr. Bacon, “which seem to graze in peaceful security, the Zebra and the Brahmin Bull are, perhaps, the most remarkable. The Brahmin Bull is, in most parts of the East Indies, an object of religious adoration; and, as such, is as highly prized as if it were conscious of, and deserving the worship paid to it.—Any slight shown to this animal, is considered as a direct insult, and often summarily punished.”

Following on, to the termination of the long walk, our party came to a large Pond (No. 16) in which were enclosed three pretty islands, fitted up with every convenience as a retreat for the Swans, Geese, and other Water fowl, swimming in ease,



and majesty about the lake. Here were to be seen White and Black Swans; several varieties of Ducks, British and foreign; Teals, and a number of other Water fowl, swimming about in all directions, and by no means shy, many of them approaching the visitors fearlessly, as if in expectation of pieces of biscuit or other voluntary contributions.

Adjoining to this pond is the den and pond in which the Polar Bear used to be kept, but from which he was removed, the strength of the animal rendering this place insecure. In this place, two Brown or Black Bears are usually kept.

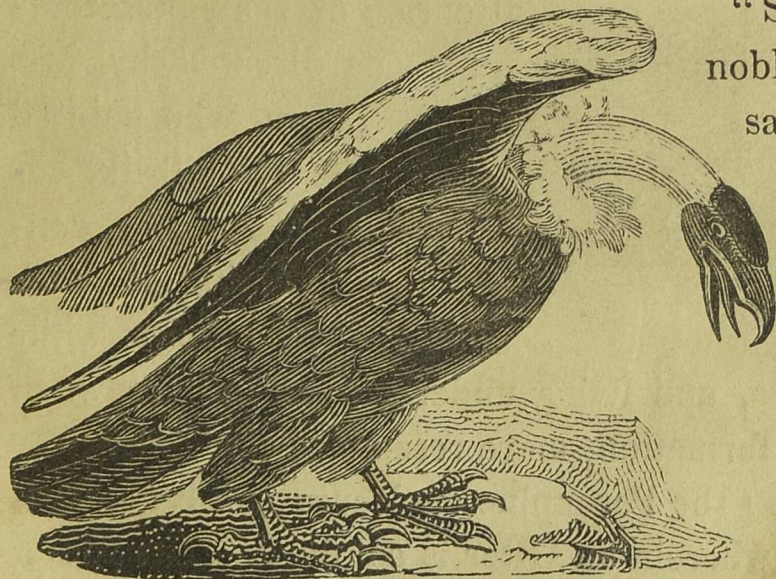
Leaving the Polar Bear's enclosure, the visitors came to what they had been long wishing to see—the Monkey poles; and here Master and Miss Bacon were highly amused by the tricks of these mischievous animals, and the agility they displayed in climbing up and about the poles to which they were chained during the day, in summer time; Clarissa, in particular, seemed delighted at their



antics, and lingered about the poles after the other visitors had left the spot.

On the lawn before the Monkey house, a marque offered an inviting seat to the young visitors; and thither they repaired, to rest awhile: for they felt somewhat fatigued by their rambles.

Resuming their walks, our young friends proceeding onward, came to a large cage, in which a Conder, a bird of the largest species, was confined.



“See that noble bird,” said Mr.

Bacon, “in it you behold the largest of the Vulture

kind.—It is evidently the same bird, described as

the Roc, in the story of Sinbad, the Sailor; and its immense size, when seen on outstretched wing, has given rise to many wonderful and absurd fables. Like the Vulture, it lives upon carrion, and is therefore particularly useful in the warm regions of South America, of which it is a native."

Near the Condor's Cage, is an enclosed kind of grotto and area, in which a Porcupine exhibits its singular construction.—To this curious animal the

attention of the young folks

was directed by Mr.

Bacon, who pointed

out its quill-like co-

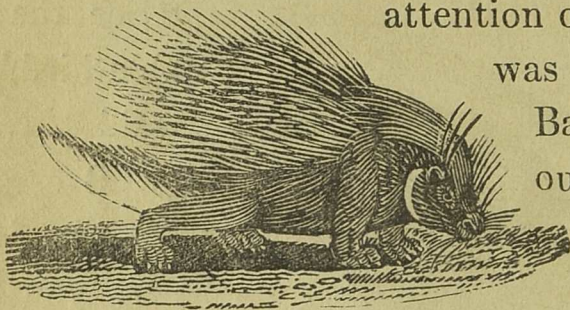
vering, as con-

necting it with

the bird species, while

its habits, and living under-ground in burrows of its own formation, more resembled the mole.

Just by the Porcupine enclosure is a cage, with a pond, wherein an Otter is confined.—The young folks were informed that this animal lives mostly



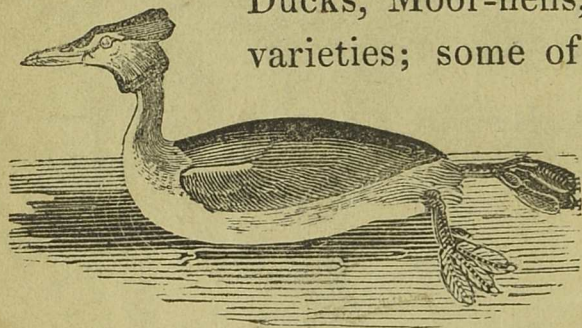


upon fish, to which, when at liberty, it is very destructive, often thinning a well-stocked pond in a few weeks. It is an excellent diver, and swims so fast, that few fish can escape it. It is common in England, and much disliked by anglers.

At a short distance east of the Monkey house, are two more ponds, well stocked with gold and other fish of rare kinds, and on the surface of which a profusion of water fowl were sporting about in all directions. Here were foreign Teal,

Ducks, Moor-hens, and many other varieties; some of them were pur-

suing each other, as if in sport; and others diving about, as if in search of

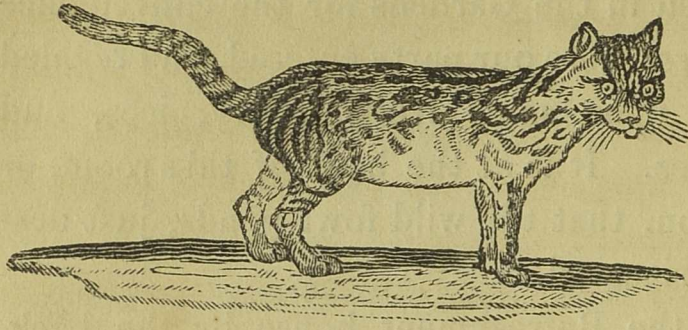


prey. A number of prettily trained shrubs and trees lined the banks and islands of these ponds; and presented a pleasing aquatic retreat, that well repaid a linger about its pleasant locality.

By this time, they came the noble Refreshment room erected in the Gardens for the convenience of its visitors: here our party entered, and regaled themselves upon some fruit, pastry, ices, and other niceties. It is at the back of this room, or rather saloon, that the wild fowl ponds, just described, are situated.

Leaving the Refreshment house by the back, and proceeding along the eastern walk, a series of flower beds, tastefully laid out, with the most elegant flowers in bloom, met the eye; and beyond these, our party came to a number of newly-erected cages or houses, somewhat similar, but slighter in construction, to the Llama house, near the Terrace. In these places, are kept many curious varieties of foreign animals. Two Ratels, from the River Gambia, in Africa, in shape something resembling the Otter, but black on the back and upper parts, and white on the under parts, exhibited a curious appearance, as though nature had placed a shield on their backs.

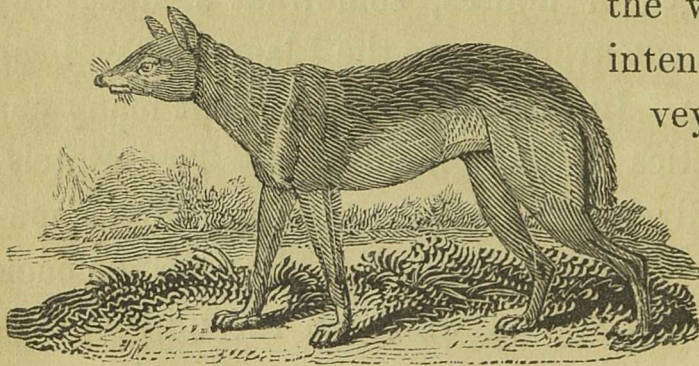
Here also were several Ocelots, or Tiger Cats, a



diminutive variety of the tiger kind, and partaking somewhat of the ha-

bits which characterise their ferocious relatives; and a Jackall, sometimes called the Lion's provider.

“It is an error,” said Mr. Bacon to his son, “to suppose that that animal, (the Jackall) has either



the wish or the intent to be purveyor or pro-

vider for any other animal;—

the fact is, the Jackall

pursues his prey with a bark or growl, which is

heard at some distance; and it not unfrequently happens, that just as the Jackall has run down his prey, the Lion, or some other ferocious animal, steps in, attracted by the well-known sound, and feasts itself upon what the Jackall had hoped to have appropriated to himself."

In this part of the gardens, among several other objects, was a singular-looking animal called a Parodoxure, and an Angora, or long-haired cat; another tailless Cat; a Crested Porcupine; and an European Wolf.

Returning past the Refreshment saloon, the Monkey house became an object of attention. This building is so constructed as to afford in winter and at night, a snug warm habitation; while the exterior is fitted up with a wire-work enclosure, into which the Monkeys are turned in the daytime, excepting during cold weather, and amuse themselves and the spectators by their antics and gambols.

Here were a large collection of Monkeys, Apes,

and Baboons, of many kinds and from most parts of the world. in the enclosure, in front of their respective apartments, to which they have ready access, are several rudely-constructed branches of trees erected, so as to afford them a means of displaying their climbing and leaping abilities, and here their tricks and gambols are really amusing.



A lady standing rather close to the Monkey cages, oppressed probably by the heat of the day, loosened the ties of her bonnet, to gain a breeze of refreshing air. A gust of wind at that moment raised her bonnet from her head, and at the same instant, one of the Monkeys watching the opportunity, snatched away her cap: in a moment he was in the midst of his mischievous brethren, tearing it to tatters, and chattering most rapidly.

despite the endeavours made by the attendants to regain it, the cap was torn into atoms, to the no small vexation of the owner.

In the year 1835, Queen Adelaide honoured these Gardens with a visit; while her Majesty and her attendants were observing the tricks of these mischievous animals, one of them snatched a purse with several sovereigns in it, from the hands of one of the maids of honour, and swallowed it. The keeper, who was at hand, soon seized the pilferer by the throat: but it was not without much trouble that Pug was made to revoke the golden meal from his pouch.

Passing beyond the Monkey-house, the Beaver enclosure was the object which next took their

attention. Here these

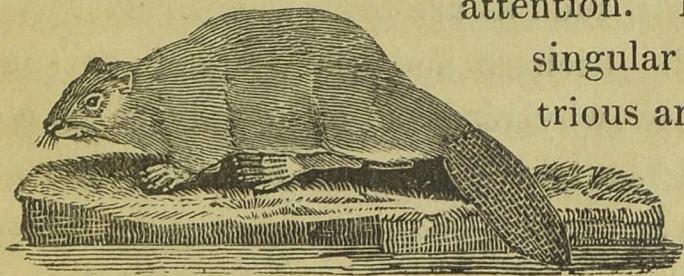
singular and industrious animals have

a rocky

kind of

house or

cells, rising in the midst of a piece of water, to

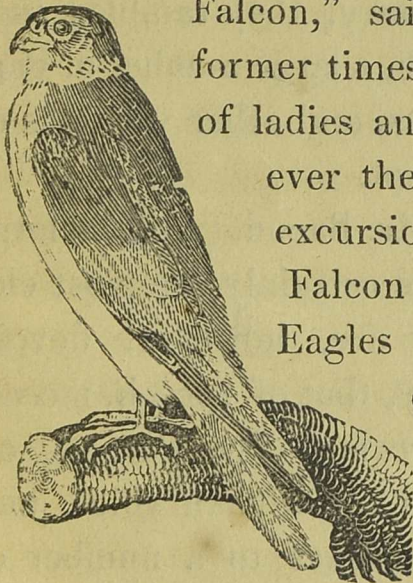


convey as near an idea as possible of their nature and habits when in a state of liberty. But what surprised Master Richard the most was, to hear that, in North America, in which country they are found in plenty, Beavers associate together in societies, erect their own habitations, and are their own timber-cutters, carpenters, and bricklayers, their teeth answering the purpose of saws, and their tails that of wheelbarrows and trowels.

Returning from the Beaver enclosure, the attention of the young friends was taken by observing in a long aviary a number of small birds, of the Pie and Finch kinds, from the small Wren to the gentle Dove and stately Hawk; including Sparrows, Goldfinches, Fieldfares, Thrushes, and other English birds, such as are to be seen in most parts of England. Richard and Clarissa were at some loss to know why birds so commonly to be met with, should be taken such care of; until their papa, in answer to their enquiries, gave them to understand that, to form a complete collection of

Birds, so as to encourage the study of Natural History, specimens of the most common, as well as of the rarer kinds, were equally essential.

Eastward of the Beaver enclosure is a building, in which are several large birds of the Hawk species, among which are Eagles, Vultures, Falcons, Goshawks, and Buzzards; all birds of prey, as Richard was able to point out, by their strong feathered feet and strong hooked bills. “The



Falcon,” said Mr. Bacon,” “ was, in former times, the exclusive companion of ladies and gentlemen, who whenever they went out on a sporting excursion, were attended by their Falcon and their Greyhound.—

Eagles are powerful birds, and often do much mischief,

being able to bear young lambs, and other domestic animals, away to their nests, which are

always built in the most inaccessible places. The Vultures are, perhaps, the ugliest of the race; but they are of great service in the eastern parts of the world, where they are found. They destroy Crocodiles' eggs in great numbers, which would otherwise come to life, and infest the rivers and lakes; and they also devour all kinds of carrion and filth, which else would putrify and taint the air. So, as you see, even Vultures are useful."

After passing the Falconry, they rambled into the Parrot house; in which, a large number of Parrots, Maccaws, Parrokeets, and other varieties of these elegant birds, are kept.

"The Maccaws," said Mr. Bacon, "are the largest of these birds, and are certainly the most elegant in plumage. They are, however, devoid of the more prized quality, that of speech, merely uttering a discordant scream. The Parrots, on the contrary, can imitate the human voice, and are capable of giving utterance to a number of words, even of repeating short sentences. The



Parroquets are all smaller than the Parrots, and have a tuft of feathers upon their heads. The Lories are a species of Parrots, from which they may be known by the greater mixture of

colours in their plumage; while the Love Birds, the smallest of these elegant species, are scarcely larger than our Goldfinches.”

Clarissa was delighted with the pretty dears, as she termed them, and much wished that she had a pair of them herself.

The next objects of attention to which our young friends were directed, were the cages for Owls, at the back of the cattle shed. Here are Owls of all sorts, sizes, and colours: most of them with their eyes shut, dozing away the time, and looking most mopingly; while some of them, awakened by the presence of the spectators, looked as serious and



as grave as a batch of counsellors in a court of law, nodding on their seats, as if their expectation of a brief was of a doubtful kind, but with powdered wigs, starched ruffles, and nothing to do.—Such was the opinion of a bystander, as he stood looking at their owlships.

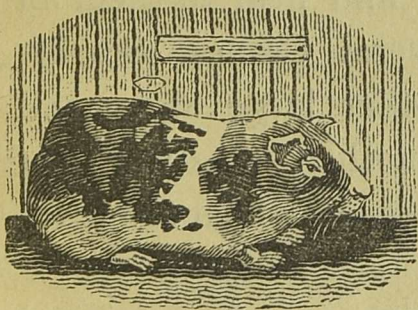
Among the animals kept in the cattle sheds, was a large American Bison, a singular looking animal, having a humped back, and a large mane. Except in these respects, the appearance of the Bison bore some resemblance to that of a fierce untamed Bull.

In another enclosure, our young friends were shown a Zebu, or Barbary Cow; a very pretty calf accompanied the cow, for which she evinced a re-

markable maternal attachment. Here were also, in the adjoining enclosures, several varieties of the Goat of Angora, or Persian Goats, from the finer portion of the hair of which, the splendid Thibet and other Persian shawls, for ladies, are made.

Southward of the Cattle-sheds, is the Dovecote, in which are several species of Doves and Pigeons, and other birds of a similar kind: and opposite to the cote is an enclosure in which several small quadrupeds are exhibited.

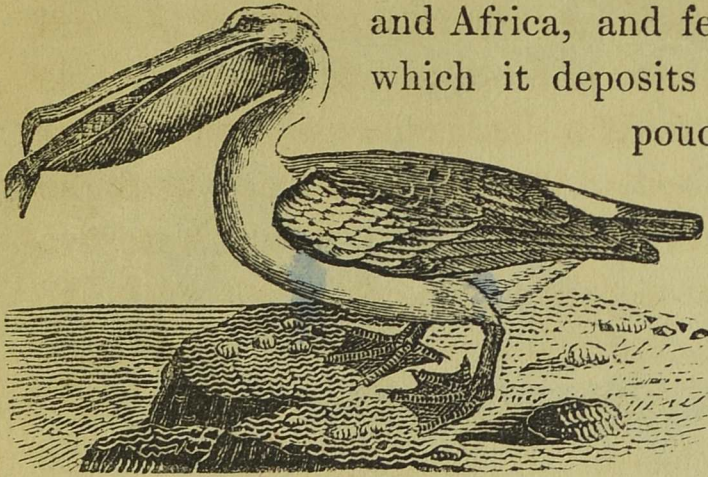
Another Eagle aviary now presents itself to view, in which are several kinds of these powerful and ferocious birds. Near the Eagles' house is the Guinea-Pig enclosure, at the sight of which the young visitors were much pleased, the little animals, of all sorts, sizes, and colour, being in continual motion, and well deserving the name given them, that of restless Cavey:



some were not larger than rats, full of life and motion; while the more sedate but venerable kinds had attained a size nearly approaching that of a small rabbit. At a little distance from the enclosure, stands the Wolfs' den, in which are two of these noted animals. Richard did not much like their sly looks, but yet he was pleased at seeing a quadruped of which he had often read.

Returning from this place, and passing the Eagle aviary, our party next came to the pond for Swans, Geese, and other web-footed birds, swimming or walking about in all directions. In proceeding further towards the lawn, they came to some more large aviaries, and near to them an enclosure in which are several Cranes, Storks, Herons, Curassows, and other large and small wading birds. And in another, westward of these, is the Pelican enclosure, in which are several White Pelicans.

“The Pelican of the wilderness,” continued their papa, “is a noble bird: it is found in Asia



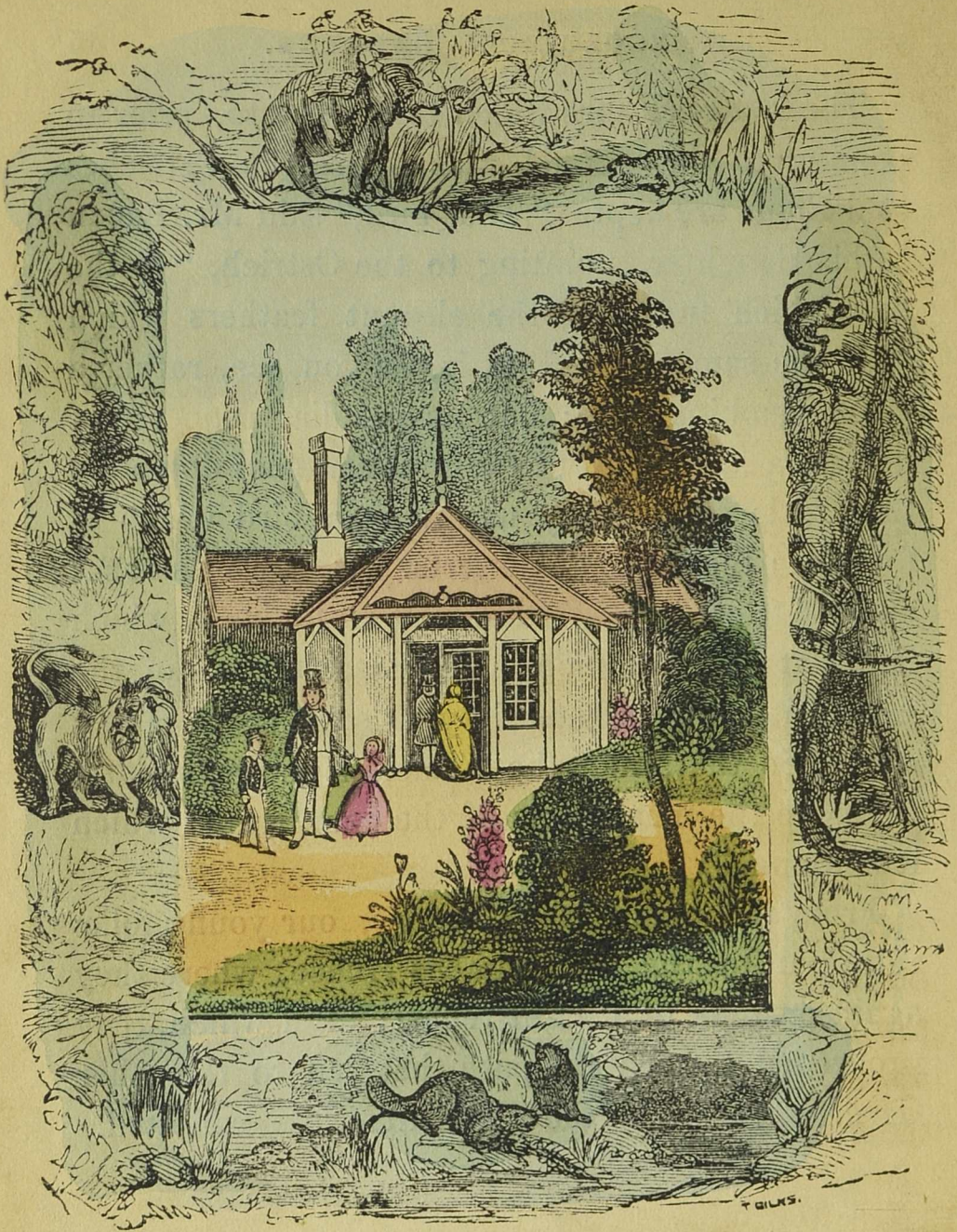
and Africa, and feeds on fish, which it deposits in a large pouch hanging from the under part of its very large beak and capable of con-

taining a large quantity of this kind of food.—The Pelican is a bird of a very indolent nature, and not by any means the kind mother that feeds its young from its own breast, as represented in the writings of former days; it is not until impelled by hunger or the outcries of its young for food, that it will stir from its perch or nest. It then flies to the sea-shore, and stores its pouch with fish, with which it returns to its young, and disgorging the fish, feeds them in turn. It must be from this mode of feeding its young, that the fabulous but popular idea, of feeding its young from its own breast, took its rise.”

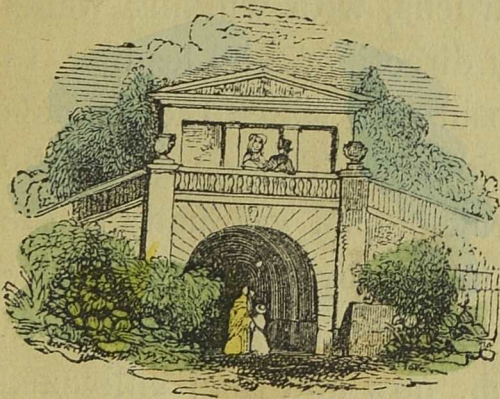


The last enclosure which they came to, prior to coming to the Tunnel, was where the Ostriches and Emus are kept. "That bird," said Mr. Bacon to his daughter, pointing to the Ostrich, "is the one which furnishes the elegant feathers which bear the same name. It is, as you see, rather a coarse looking bird: but its peculiar property of digesting almost every thing it can pass down its throat, is particularly useful to a bird which is found in the Arabian deserts. It is very strong, and swift of foot. With a man on its back, which is not at all uncommon in the Eastern parts of the world, it can run from sixty to seventy miles in a day. So that, like the Camel, it is particularly useful to the inhabitants of the countries in which it is found."

From this part of the Gardens, our young folks returned to the Refreshment House, where they again partook of a slight repast; after which, they proceeded toward the path that led to the other Gardens, in which the Elephants were exhibited.



The young folks, with their papa, had now completed their survey of the Gardens on the south side of the carriage road; and were about entering the Tunnel, cut under the road-way, as a medium of communication between the two Gardens. But prior to proceeding further, they sat down upon the seats which



are here provided, and after inspecting and admiring the elegant climbing plants which ornamented the sides of the Tunnel, and the pathway that led to the northern gardens, they passed onward.

The sight that now presented itself to their view, differed in many respects from that which the other portion of the Gardens exhibited. There, the elegant flower beds and broad gravelled walks appeared as if cut out of a large grassy lawn; and the eye, at once, took in an extensive though va-

ried scene: here, something more of the appearance of a woodland presented itself with a much more limited scenery. A broad gravel walk ran through the centre of these Gardens, with winding walks branching out in every direction, and leading to the erections and enclosures in which the animals in these Gardens were retained. To the right of the principal path, the bank sloped gradually to the edge of the Regent's Canal, by which the entire length of this part of the Gardens was bounded; and the water of which, now and then enlivened by the barges which were continually passing to and fro, gave animation to the whole scene.

At the top of the walk leading from the Tunnel, before turning either way, stands the Squirrels' Cage, sometimes inhabited by a number of these pretty nimble inhabitants of the woods. In the present instance, but one Squirrel, from Malabar, an island of the Indian seas, was therein; and he, poor fellow! looked as if he were lamenting the absence of his former companions, most of whom had died in this very cage.

Taking the path to the right, the young party came to the Museum, a large building, in which are preserved thousands of animals, most of which have, at different periods, inhabited these or the other gardens.

Here were preserved specimens of animals of all sorts, sizes, and kinds, from the minute Mouse to the gigantic Elephant and Whale; intermixed with a great number of Monkeys, no longer mischievous; and a large assemblage of Cats, to which the immediate vicinity of the Mice was no longer a position of danger to the latter. The Foxes and Wolves, it is true, seemed as if casting a longing eye at the birds, as though anxious for a taste of poultry; but no movement to effect that object was possible. All was as still as Death could render them.

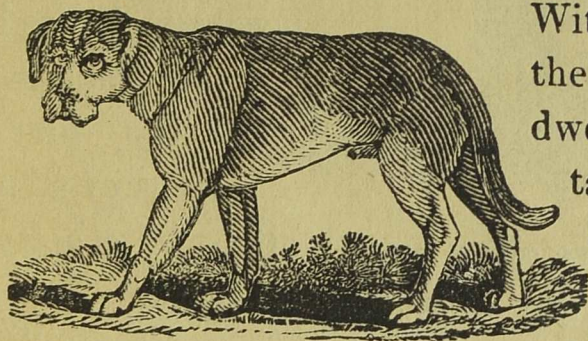
The collection was, indeed, numerous, and interesting to the naturalist; but to the young and casual observer, animation was wanting. The absence of life in all they beheld, threw a seriousness

over their pleasure; and although they were somewhat gratified at beholding so many specimens of the animal world, from all parts of the globe; yet they felt relieved when, upon leaving the Museum, they again looked upon the living objects of animation which they came to at every turn of the walks.

Close to the Museum, are the Dog kennels. Here are several foreign and rare specimens of this faithful companion of man, among which were the Persian and Hungarian sheep-dog, the Cuba Mastiff, the Esquimaux Dog, the Thibet Watch-dog, and the English Bloodhound.

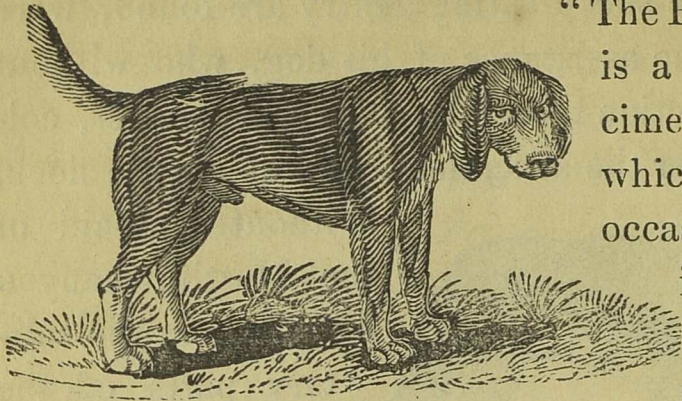
“The principal characteristic of the Dog,” said Mr. Bacon to his children, “is faithfulness to the trust reposed in him, and fidelity to his master, qualities very unlike those which are exhibited by the Cat, Puss being familiar to all, but faithful to none. The shepherd would find himself utterly unable to keep his flock of sheep together, much less to defend them from the wolves, in countries

where those sheep-eating gentry are found, were it not for the assistance of his dog, who without other instruction than a look from his master, collects together the stragglers, and unites the flock.



Without the aid of the Mastiff, many a dwelling, in the solitary parts of the country, would be at the mercy of those who roam

about seeking what they can steal. Captain Parry, in the history of his voyage in search of a North West passage to India, tells us that the Esquimaux Indians have no other means of travelling from one place to another but by sledges drawn by these faithful animals. Seated in a sledge, to which two or three dogs are attached by a rude sort of harness, the Esquimaux will travel thirty or forty miles in a short winter's day, over frozen snow, and along a trackless wild.



“The Blood Hound is a noble specimen of a Dog which has been occasionally used in tracking the footsteps of men

and animals, more often from motives of cruelty than humanity. But in whatever relation we see this animal, it is always in a situation of trust.”

Leaving the Dog kennels, our party returned again toward the westward portion of the Gardens; and passed the Ostrich shed and yard, next to which were the houses and inclosures containing the several varieties of the Deer. Among these were the Morse Deer, the Virginian Fallow Deer (presented by her Majesty Queen Victoria), a Roe-buck, and several Cashmere Goats.

“You see here,” said Mr. Bacon, “several of those nimble inhabitants of the forest, which man

takes a delight in pursuing, and calls it sport. Hunting the Deer, or Stag, is an amusement with country gentlemen; and the chase often ends in the death of the animal, that, were it not for the timely interference of the whipper-in, would be torn to pieces by the hounds. To hunt the Wolf, or other wild animals, to prevent their ravaging our flocks and farm yards, may be excusable: but a similar apology cannot be advanced for those who take delight in hunting to death those innocent and harmless tenants of the woods."

"Papa," said Clurissa, who was now noticing with some interest the Cashmere Goat, "are we in any way indebted to that animal for our Cashmere dresses?" "No, my dear," was the reply, "not for your Cashmere dress; the term, as applied to the dress itself, merely expresses a quality like or similar to Cashmere; but that animal does furnish the very wool, or rather hair, of which the elegant Cashmere shawls are made."

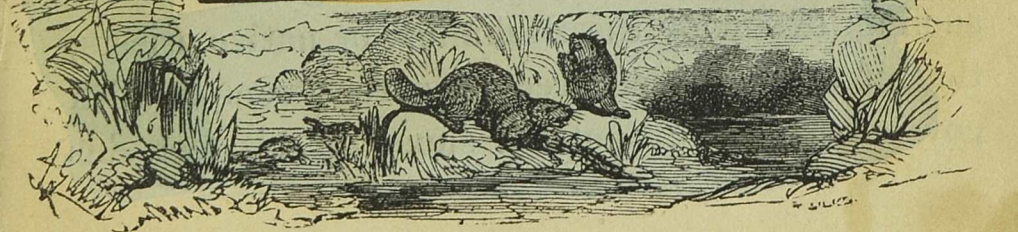
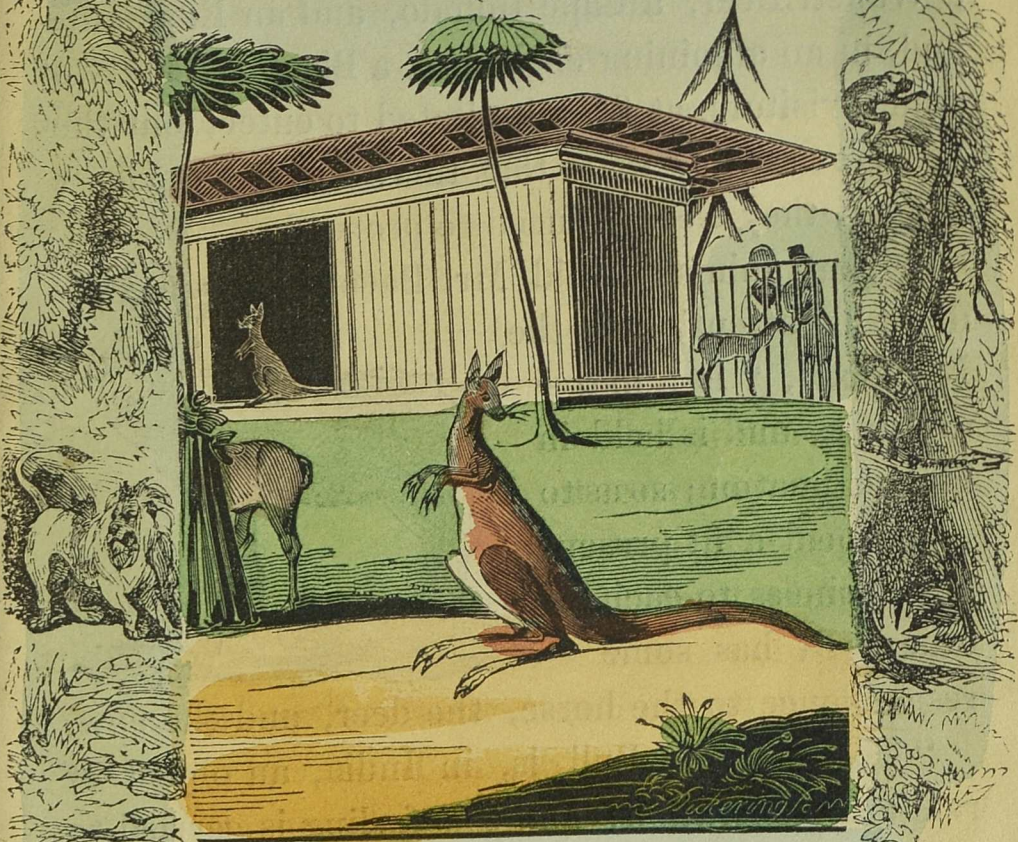
"Do look at that curious Goat, Clarissa," said

Richard, pointing to the Scinde Goat; "it has a victorine round its neck." Clarissa smiled when, looking at the animal, she beheld its singular appearance: its ears were large, and hung below its knees; its hair was long, black, and silky; while the white stripe, descending from over the shoulders down the front of the animal, certainly looked much like a graceful and ornamental victorine.

Westward of these buildings is a paddock, in which the Ostriches are occasionally allowed to enjoy air and exercise: and near to this is the Kangaroo shed, wherein, occasionally, several of these singular looking animals are to be seen.

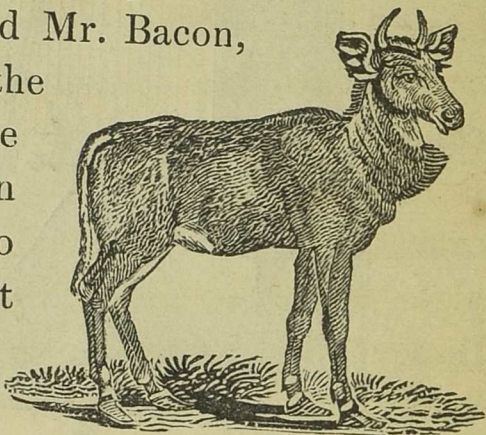
"The Kangaroo," said Mr. Bacon, "is found in New South Wales, by the natives of which its flesh is eaten as a delicacy: it is an inoffensive animal, and, by its nimble bounds, often escapes from its numerous enemies. The female has a kind of pouch, into which, in times of fear or danger, she receives and conceals her young."

In an extensive building, further westward, our



young party saw several of the larger quadrupeds, among which were the Nyl Ghau, a Brahmin Cow, a Wapeti Deer, a Cape Buffalo, and an Elephant; and, in an adjoining enclosure, a Bison. The two young visitors, at first, hesitated to enter; but the keepers assuring them that there was not the least danger, they were induced to proceed.

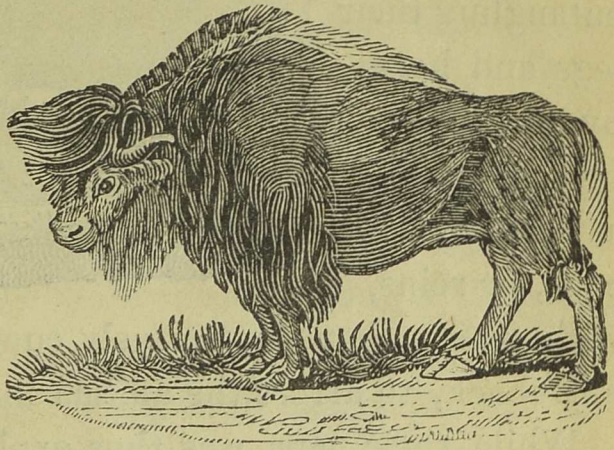
“That animal,” said Mr. Bacon, directing attention to the Nyl Ghau, “is a native of India, and is held in high estimation; so as to be deemed a fit present from princes to each other.—It has some resemblance to the horse, the deer, and the cow.



“The Brahmin Bull is, in India, an object of religious veneration; and this feeling is carried to such an extent by the Brahmins, or native priests, that if any one ventured to enter a temple with cow or calf skin boots or shoes on his feet, his

life would be in danger, or he would be shunned, as an object of sacrilegious horror.

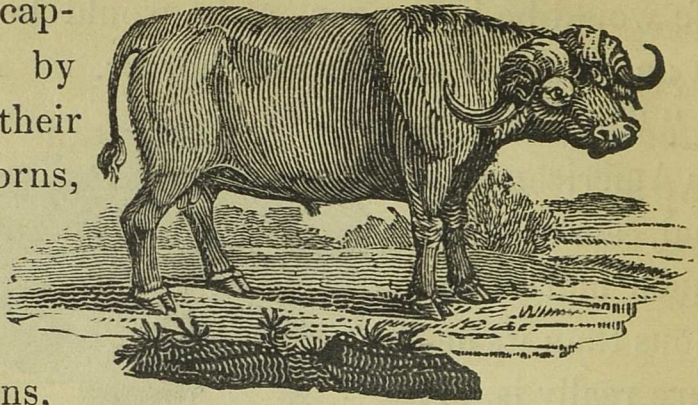
“ The Bison is an American animal, and looks much more ferocious than its nature really is. It may indeed be called the Wild Bull, to which,



except that it has longer hair, a nobler mane, and high humped shoulders, it has much resemblance. Bisons were, in former years, also found in Scotland; but the breed is there now quite extinct.”

“ The Buffalo, the animal that more closely resembles the Ox,” continued Mr. Bacon, “ is seen in greater numbers in the immense plains of South America than at the Cape. They range in perfect freedom, and are hunted by the natives for their skins, of which an excellent leather is made. The

Brazilians capture them by entangling their legs and horns, by means of a lazzo, a sort of cord, or reins,

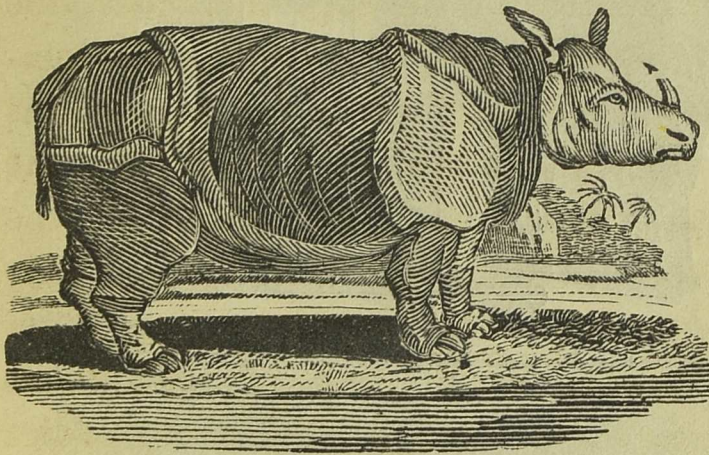


with which they dexterously contrive, seated on horseback, to arrest the animal in his flight.”

While their papa was thus explaining to them the nature and habits of the several animals, the attention of Clarissa was taken by a keeper unfastening the apartment in which an Elephant was confined, and leading it away to a paddock in the vicinity. Our young folks followed; and had the pleasure of seeing the manner in which the docile animal was harnessed, and the howdah, a convenient kind of seat, as used in India, attached to its back. The keeper now invited the young ladies to take a seat in the howdah; an invitation that

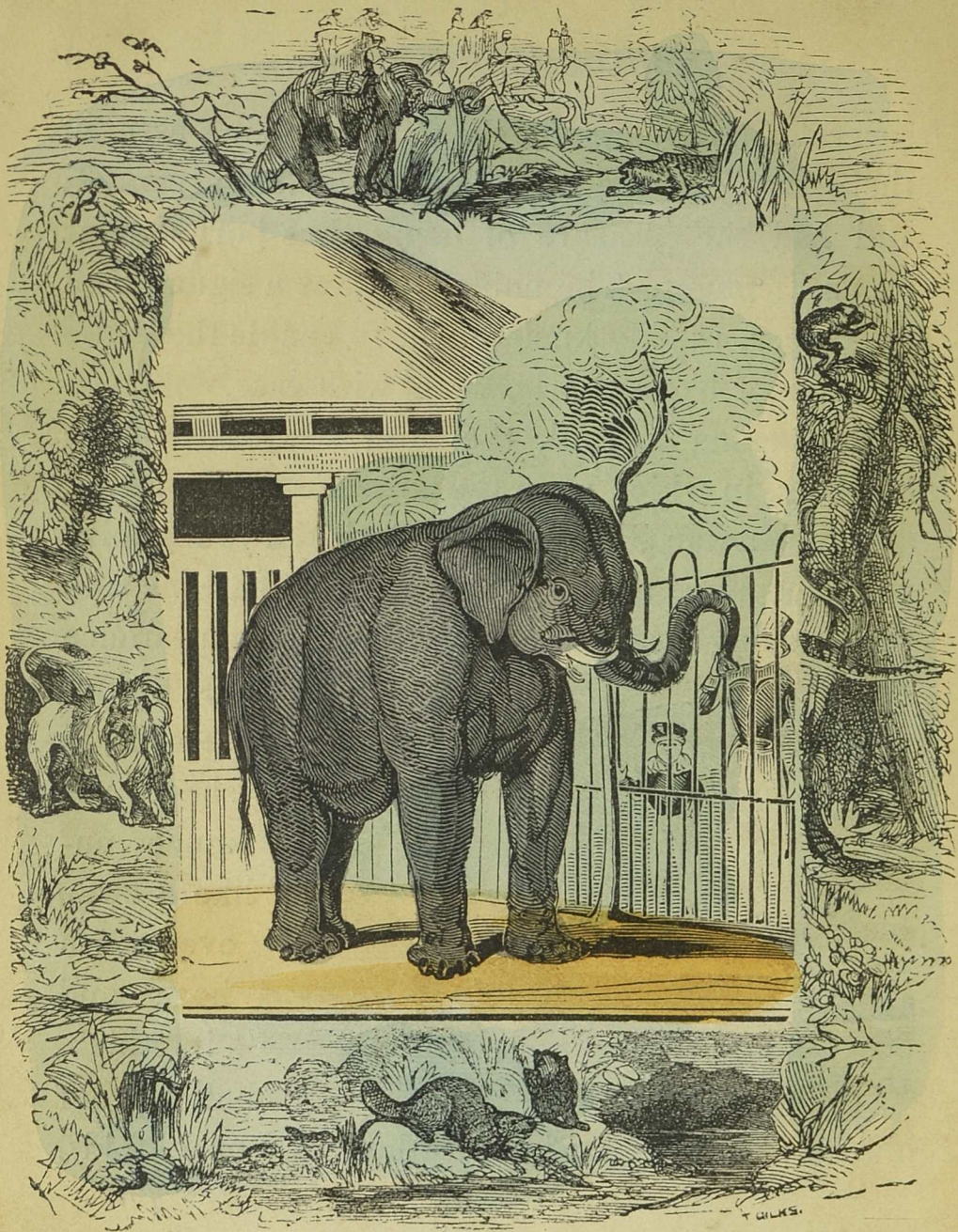
several, Clarissa among the number, being assured there was not the least danger, at last accepted; and had the pleasure of being thus borne about by an Elephant. The noble beast, at a signal from its keeper, readily knelt down, to enable the ladies to enter or leave the howdah with ease.

Proceeding onward, the party next came to the building, in which were the large Indian Elephant, and the Indian Rhinoceros. Both the young folks were surprised at the gigantic size of the one and the amazing strength of the other. In appearance



the Rhinoceros is, in shape, not much unlike a large overgrown hog; and its thick, bullet-proof

hide seems formed of old leather, laid on in folds.



“That Elephant,” said one of the keepers, in answer to a question from Mr. Bacon, “is named Jack, and came here in 1831, at which time he was about eleven years old. His daily allowance, now, is a truss and a half of hay, forty-two pounds of turnips, three pounds of boiled rice and half a bushel of bran mashed together, ten pounds of sea biscuit, and a bushel of chaff; thirty-six pounds of straw form his bed, which he usually eats up by the morning; and he drinks, daily, thirty-six pails of water. Besides this, he obtains no small portion of biscuit, buns, and fruit from the visitors.”

Jack, as if aware that he was the object of conversation, now thrust forth his trunk; but none of the party being provided, he withdrew it again, evidently disappointed. Here, as if by agreement, his neighbour, the Rhinoceros, took a mouthful of water from a tank in its den, and walked to the side nearest the Elephant, whose trunk was soon there, to receive the contents: Jack, elevating his head, then blew the water, like fine rain, over the visitors; and thus drove them from his presence.

At a short distance from the Elephant's house, are the Wild Boar's sheds, in which are one of those fierce creatures, as well as several other animals of the Hog species. And in a room of the house occupied by the Superintendent, are the Marmots, Opossums, Kangaroo Rats, Squirrels, Monkeys, Bats, and other small and delicate animals.

Beyond the Superintendent's house, is another large building, and paddock, in which are several Giraffes, or Cameleopards; certainly the prettiest and most attractive objects in the Gardens.

The keeper informed the young folks, that the two eldest of these rare and beautiful animals were brought to this country, from Arabia, in 1836; the two younger ones were born in the Gardens, one in May, 1841, the other in February, 1844. When a week old, they stood six feet in height; by the end of the year, they reached ten feet; and when full grown, are twenty feet in stature. They are remarkably delicate, and the most perfect cleanliness is necessary for their preservation.



In disposition, the Giraffe is gentle and timid; but it soon becomes attached to those by whom it is attended, and kind treatment makes it familiar even with strangers. It subsists upon vegetation, and is very fond of the tender branches of trees. In its native plains, its enemies are numerous and powerful; but its rapidity, such as the swiftest horse could not keep pace with, often saves it when pursued: if attacked, it defends itself with its heels, with which it strikes very severe blows.

Our party thanked the keeper for the information he had afforded; and having finished their survey of the Gardens, they returned homeward. And for some time afterwards, the Zoological Gardens, and what they had seen therein, furnished both Clarissa and Richard with a pleasing and ready subject for conversation with their friends.

The End.

