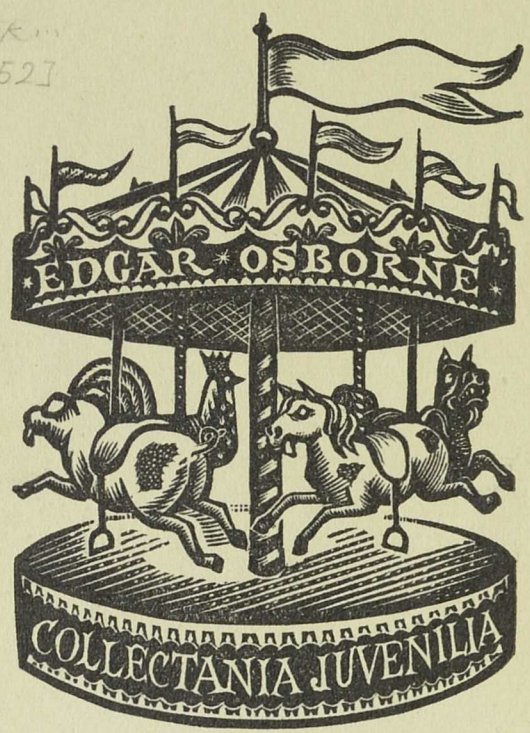


A
BOOK
ABOUT
ANIMALS

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY

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A

BOOK ABOUT ANIMALS.



LONDON:
THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.
INSTITUTED 1799.
56, PATERNOSTER ROW AND 65, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD;
AND SOLD BY THE BOOKSELLERS.

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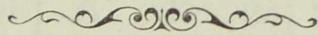
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A BOOK ABOUT ANIMALS.



IN this world are seen the works of God and the works of man. Every child may notice that what God makes is very different from what man makes. God can create: he can make a world out of nothing. It is not so with man: he must have tools to work with, and materials to work upon. If he makes a book, he must have paper and ink, a printing-press, and many other things. If he makes a sheet of paper, he must have rags, of which paper is made. Rags were once in the form of cotton or flax; and the cotton and flax were grown from seed; and the seed sprang from other seed. Man may change the shape of an article, but he cannot create; nor can he give life to that which his hands have formed.

All the works of God are *perfect*, and are so *at once*. The first sparrow that he made was a perfect bird. The first lion was a perfect beast. The eyes of a child were as bright and wonderful four thousand years ago as are the eyes of a child now. It is not so with what man makes. What he does is never perfect. A plough, or a watch, or a shoe, is very different from what such things were two hundred years ago. As man becomes wiser, he is able to improve in his labour. We should think of these differences when we consider the works of God.

How lovely do thy works appear,
Thou God of wisdom and of might!
And all that meets the eye and ear
Imparts an ever new delight.

Thy great and glorious name is sung
By woods and fields, and sky and sea;
And all creation has a tongue
To render glory, Lord, to thee.

If, then, the works of God are so great and perfect, they should be studied. The Bible says, they are "sought out of all them that have pleasure therein," Psa. cxi. 2. This little book may

be of use to the young in their first inquiries. But as these works are so vast, a portion only can be attended to at one time; and the part now selected is the class of living creatures called quadrupeds, or animals with four feet. As we consider these, we may learn some lessons worth knowing.

It was on the sixth and last day of creation that God made the animals. Some time afterwards he brought them to Adam, that he might give to them their names. We do not know what those names were,—they were, most likely, not the same as those by which we now call them.

There are nearly a thousand kinds of beasts. Some live in the forest; others in the wood, or in the field. They are found on the mountain, on the plain, and in the valley. But wherever they are met with, they show the wisdom, power, and goodness of their Creator. We can here only give pictures of a few from this large number.

PICTURE I.

THE HORSE.

IN some countries horses live in a wild state, and own no one for their master. They run about in large troops. Each troop has one of its number as a leader. If attacked by a band of wolves, as they sometimes are, they crowd themselves in a ring, with their heads together in the middle, and their heels outside. The young colts are placed safely inside the ring. The horses then fiercely kick with their hind legs, and kill or drive away the wolves.

Almost every man in Arabia is the owner of a horse. The Arab always treats his horse with great kindness. It lives in the tents along with the children, and at night all sleep side by side. The little Arabs climb upon its back without fear, and talk to it as if it could speak to them again.

There is a kind of horse, or pony, reared in the Shetlands, a group of islands on the north of Scotland, which is very small; but it is strong, gentle, and mostly very beautiful. A Shetland horse was given as a present to a gentleman. He was a long way distant from home, and had to return in a gig. He was puzzled how to convey his beautiful gift to his house. At last, he thought he would place him in the gig, which he did after some trouble. And there sat the pony, with his body covered by the apron of the gig, and his head peeping over it. A few pieces of bread kept him quiet. The people, as they passed along the road, were not a little amused at the strange sight of a horse riding in a chaise.

In our land horses are of great use. Some people kick and spur and whip them in a cruel manner. This makes them bad-tempered. When they are treated in a mild and kind way, they are nice, gentle creatures. It is written in the Bible, "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast;" and again, "He shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy."

THE ASS.

IN Persia, the wild ass is so swift as to outrun all who try to catch it. It is there hunted like a stag, and its flesh is thought to be food fit for the table of a king. In other countries, the ass is mostly made a poor drudge, and loses all its bold spirit. If it were better used, it might not be so dull and stubborn.

Some years ago an old man went about the streets of London to sell greens, potatoes, and other vegetables: these were carried from door to door by a donkey. He treated it kindly; and often, in his day's journey, he stopped and gave it a handful of hay, or some leaves of greens, as a reward. He had no need of a stick or whip to drive it along; as soon as he spoke, the poor ass would stop, or move forwards. One day the kind conduct of the old man was remarked, and he was asked if his beast were apt to be stubborn. "Ah! master," he replied, "it is of no use to be cruel;

and as for being stubborn, I cannot complain, for it is ready to go anywhere or to do anything. I bred him myself. He is sometimes skittish and playful, and once ran away from me. You will hardly believe it, but there were more than fifty people after him, trying in vain to stop him, yet he turned back of himself, and never stopped till he ran his head into my bosom."

In the Bible, "vain man" is said to be "like the wild ass's colt." We should pray to God for his grace to make us humble and teachable, that we may obey him in all things. Our Lord Jesus Christ, just before he died for our sins, rode into the city of Jerusalem upon an ass, while the people cast their robes and branches of the palm-tree in his way, as a mark of honour.

Poor donkey, how I pity thee,
With burdens on thy back;
For whatsoe'er thy work may be,
Of woes thou hast no lack.

No lack of whip, no lack of stick,
Where'er poor donkey goes ;
Thy skin it should be very thick
To bear such heavy blows.

The dog may many a playmate find,
The cow in peace may be;
The horse may have a master kind,
But who is kind to thee?

Yet surely thou hast honour known,
Far more than all beside;
For *He* who reigns on heaven's throne
Was seen on thee to ride!

Poor patient ass, thou art not fair,
Nor fleet of foot, nor wise;
Yet, since thou didst my Saviour bear,
I cannot thee despise.



THE GOAT.

THE goat is a lively, hardy, and active animal. It well enjoys its liberty on the high hills of Wales, and the steep rocks of other lands. When kept in the yards of houses, it soon attaches itself to its keeper, and becomes very playful and friendly with the village children. But if foolish boys pull its long beard, or in any way offend it, it will fight with its horns, and show itself to be a dangerous enemy.

Goats are clever and cunning in their way, as

will appear from a story related by a lady. She says, "A goat and her kids frequented a square in which I once lived, and were often fed by myself and servants—a circumstance which would have made no impression, had I not heard a thumping at the hall door, which arose from the buttings of the goat when the food was not forthcoming, and whose example was followed by the two little things. After a time, this remained unheeded, and, to our great astonishment, one day the kitchen-bell used by the tradespeople, and the wire of which passed by the side of one of the railings, was sounded. The cook answered it; but no one was there except the goat and kids, with their heads bent down towards the kitchen window. It was thought some boy had rung for them; but they were watched, and the old goat was seen to hook one of her horns into the wire, and pull it."* This is a striking instance of what is called the instinct of animals.

The young reader will, perhaps, remember who

* Mrs. Lee's Anecdotes of the Habits and Instincts of Animals, p. 366.

are called "goats" in the Bible. If he should not, let him turn to the twenty-fifth chapter of the Gospel by St. Matthew, and he will there read that the wicked are compared to goats, and that they will, in the day of judgment, be placed on the left hand of the Judge, and then cast into hell. But the sheep, or those who have loved and obeyed Christ, shall be on the right hand, and then shall be received into heaven. In which of these companies shall we be placed?

O Lord, direct our youthful feet
In thine appointed ways;
That we at last thy saints may meet,
To join in endless praise.



THE DOG.

THERE are many kinds of dogs, as the lurcher, the terrier, the pointer, the water-dog, the greyhound, and others. They are of different sizes, from the little spaniel to the large mastiff or noble Newfoundland dog. Some are good swimmers, and have saved many persons from drowning. In

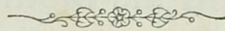
the cold countries of the world, dogs are employed in drawing sledges over snow and ice.

The dog very soon learns to do what he is taught. We have seen him guide with care the steps of the blind along the winding streets of a town. In the evening he safely leads his poor master home, where he often gets a very scanty meal in return for his trouble.

Many stories have been told about dogs. Only one will now be given, and that will be of a Newfoundland dog named Neptune. He was a very fine dog, and lived at an inn in Dorsetshire. He had been taught every morning, as the clock struck eight, to take in his mouth a certain basket, placed for the purpose, containing a few pence, and to carry it across the street to a baker's, who took out the money, and replaced it by the proper number of rolls. With these Neptune hastened back to the kitchen, and safely put down his trust; but what was most worthy of remark, he never attempted to take the basket, or even to approach it, on Sunday mornings. On one occasion, when returning with the rolls, another dog

made an attack upon the basket, for the purpose of stealing its contents; when the trusty Neptune placed the basket on the ground, well punished the intruder, and then bore off his charge in triumph.*

In eastern countries dogs are not taken so much care of as they are in England. They lie about the streets, half-starved and fierce, and are very troublesome to passengers. They prowl in the darkness of the night in search of food. David compares his enemies to hungry dogs, howling around a city, and seeking their prey. Psa. lix. 6, 14, 15.



THE CAT.

THE nice clean furry skin, home habits, and lively ways of the cat make it a favourite in most houses. It loves to keep in the sun, and is fond of sitting before a fire, to enjoy the pleasant warmth. There it will stay for hours, making a purring noise, or rubbing its face with its paws. The female cat

* Bell's History of Quadrupeds.

takes great care of her kittens, and will hide them if she thinks them in danger of being hurt.

It has been sometimes said that cats can see in the dark; this is not quite the case; but it is certain they can see with much less light than most other animals. They can alter the shape of the pupil of the eye, so as to suit it to the shades of the evening, or the bright light of the day. Cats have whiskers, or long hairs on their upper lips and eyebrows. These they can move about, and they are thought to be of use to enable them to feel if any hole is large enough to put their bodies through.

Cats were formerly wild creatures, but some kinds have been domesticated, or tamed, so as to dwell in a house. Indeed, many wild creatures of opposite natures have been tamed, and have been taught to dwell together in peace. A man in London shows a cat, a rat, a hawk, a rabbit, an owl, a pigeon, a starling, and a sparrow, living most lovingly together in a large cage. This he calls "the happy family." He has managed to do this by bringing them into one another's company

when quite young, and by keeping them well fed. So much do the character and temper, even of animals, depend on the training they have in early life, and the direction that is given to their first habits and friendships. Surely, children may learn a lesson from "the happy family," and live together in peace. How sad is it when brothers and sisters "fall out, and chide, and fight."

As Christ has commanded, I'll constantly try,
My neighbours to love, and myself to deny:
From my own little pleasures a portion I'll spare,
To gladden their hearts, and to lighten their care.



THE HOG.

THE hog tribe are fond of wallowing in the mire; they feed on animal or vegetable food; and also dig up the earth with their strong snouts, in search of roots. In a wild state they are very fierce, particularly the boars.

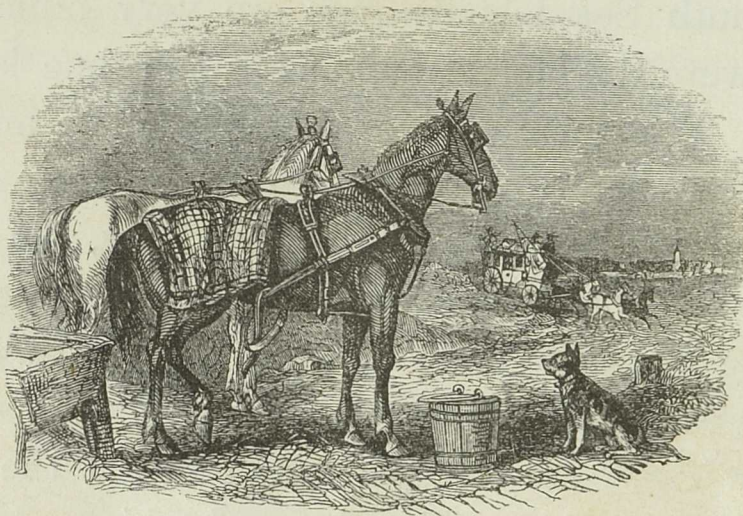
Many years ago, boars were found in the woods and forests of England. They were hunted by dogs. When a boar found itself pursued, it

turned round, and with its large tusks attacked the dogs, and often killed them and the hunter too. It is not now seen anywhere in our land. We may walk through a pleasant wood, or by the sides of a green forest, without any fear of meeting with this savage beast.

The tame hog or pig is a well-known animal. Its colour is mostly a dirty white, though sometimes it is black, or what is called pie-bald. In the South Sea Islands pigs are very numerous. They were the largest animals at one time known there. When the natives first saw some animals that were before unknown to them, they called them after the name of the pig: thus, the horse was called "the great pig that carries a man;" the dog was "the barking pig;" and the ass was "the noisy, or long-eared pig."

The Jews were not permitted to eat the flesh of swine, or pigs. The duty of taking care of these animals belonged to slaves. No one who could get any other kind of work would disgrace himself by keeping or feeding them. Into what a low state, then, did the prodigal son bring him-

self, when he became a keeper of swine, and was ready to eat the husks on which they fed. All disobedience to parents, and all sin against God, will bring us into trouble and misery, unless we repent of it, and find mercy through Jesus Christ.





PICTURE II.

THE OX.

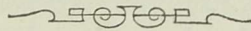
THE ox is well known to almost all young persons. Who has not felt pleasure while looking at a number of oxen, lying on the grass of the meadow, or standing by the side of a pond? We may approach them without any fear; but when teased they will fiercely turn upon those who ill use them. When hurt, they will run wildly about, toss about their tails, and roar fearfully; and sad will it be for any one who then comes in the way of their long horns.

Oxen are very useful to man. In some places they draw the plough in the field, and drag the wagon along the road: in the east they tread out or thresh the corn. The flesh of the ox we call beef; its fat is melted into tallow to form our candles. Its skin serves as covers for our trunks, as leather for our boots and shoes, and as binding

for our books. Its hair is mixed with mortar for our houses; its sinews are used as thread by saddle-makers; and its gristle is made into glue. Its blood is employed to purify sugar for our tea-table, and its gall to cleanse our woollens and carpets. From some of its bones is made an oil, used in cleaning the harness of coaches, and the larger bones are ground to manure the earth. Nor must we forget its horns; these are made into cups, combs, and knife-handles, or, when cut into thin pieces, serve for the sides of lanterns instead of glass.

The people called Hindoos, who live in India, will not eat the flesh of a certain kind of ox, nor will they let it do any common work. These oxen are very tame, and walk about the cities. Sometimes they will go up to a person having grass in his hands, and eat it. And they have been known to break into gardens, and to thrust their noses into fruiterers' and pastrycooks' shops. This is very impudent of them; but no one dares to hurt them for their boldness. The Brahmins or priests feed them with great care, and teach

the people to fall down and worship them. The apostle Paul says that the heathen, in former times, had idols made after the likeness "of birds, and beasts, and creeping things." When any people are without the Bible, they fall into great error, and are ignorant of the knowledge of the only true God. How thankful we should be that we have that holy book! Were we without it, we should be as ignorant as are the poor idolaters.



THE COW.

IN some countries the people live chiefly upon the milk of the cow, and it supplies many in this land with their most agreeable and nourishing food. After the milk has been in a dish for a few hours, cream is formed on the top. This cream is skimmed off, and made into butter, which is done by beating it in a vessel called a churn. Cheese is also made from milk.

A cow was one day taken from her calf, and brought to London to be sold. The man who

bought her, took her to his home, but from whence she contrived to get away. The cow found her way through the streets of the great city, and along many miles of a country road, and was seen the next morning standing at the gate of the yard where her young calf had been left. How she found her way along the streets and lanes of London, and for many miles beyond, no one could tell. This fact shows how great is the affection the cow bears to her young. She has been known to carry her calf in her mouth, and hide it in the woods, lest it should be taken from her. And she has been seen to go to it two or three times every day to give it food.

Calves, when very young, are helpless creatures, from the length and weakness of their legs. When killed, their flesh is called veal. Their stomach is cleaned, salted, and dried, and is then called runnet. A piece of this runnet is used in making cheese, by being put into the milk of the cow, which it turns to whey, and this being strongly pressed, forms cheese.

In almost every part of the world, oxen and

cows are found. And in this we see the goodness of God, in giving such useful animals for the support of man.



THE SHEEP.

SHEEP are much valued for their flesh, skin, and wool. The wool shorn in England and Scotland from sheep, is of the value of two millions of pounds in money; and when made up into cloth, it is worth more than six millions. The skin is made into gloves, parchment, and book-covers. In some parts of the world, butter and cheese are prepared from the milk of sheep. How much of our comfort and food do we owe to this animal!

At the Cape of Good Hope, the sheep have very large tails, which consist chiefly of a rich kind of fat. One of these tails has been known to weigh as much as twenty pounds. Sometimes the tail is placed upon a little cart, or on small wheels, to preserve it from injury.

Sheep are careful of their young. A gentleman was passing over a lonely hill in Scotland, when a

ewe came to him, bleating in a most piteous way. She stood boldly before him, and looked up in his face, as if asking for his assistance. He got out of his chaise, and thought he would follow the poor distressed animal. As soon as she saw him ready to attend to her case, she trotted on before him along the road for some distance, until she came to a heap of stones. Here he found a lamb whose feet were jammed between two large stones. It was very weak from its struggling to get free. The gentleman set at liberty the little captive, and laid it gently upon the grass by the roadside, where it might rest after its pains and efforts; while the mother poured forth her gratitude in a long and continued bleat.*

In several beautiful parables in the Bible, we have sheep noticed as emblems, or illustrations. Our Saviour compares his people to sheep; and he calls himself the Good Shepherd. For them he laid down his life. Those who are not of his fold, do not hear his voice—do not attend to his

* Captain Brown's Popular Natural History.

commands. But his sheep know it, and obey it. These he guides through this world, and will bring safely to heaven. May every reader seek the grace of the Holy Spirit, that he or she may be one of the lambs of Christ!

The lamb was offered as a sacrifice upon the Jewish altar: this was a type, or figure, of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is called "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," John i. 29.



THE HARVEST MOUSE.

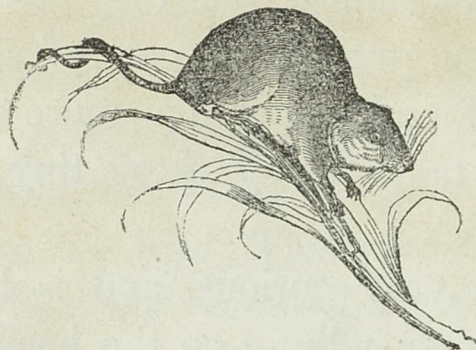
IN one corner of our picture will be seen three little harvest mice. These are among the smallest of all the four-footed beasts. The head and body of the harvest mouse are only two inches in length. When put into a pair of scales one of these mice is found to weigh no more than a copper farthing. It takes six of these tiny creatures to weigh an ounce.

Its nest is very curious, and is built on the straws of corn, or is hung on the head of a thistle.

It is round like a ball. When a number of young harvest mice are inside, it is so closely filled, that it has been rolled across a table without disturbing its little inmates.

Harvest mice are shy and timid. One kept in a cage was fond of climbing along the wires, to which it held fast by its tail as it moved along. It kept itself quite clean, and was often seen rubbing its face and body with its paws, after the manner of a cat.

At the time of harvest, many of these mice are carried among the sheaves into the barn. They there make a hole in the floor, and underneath it form a nice warm bed for the winter.





PICTURE III.

THE FALLOW-DEER.

THOSE young persons who have walked through a park no doubt have been delighted with a sight of the fallow-deer, as they have stood in a group under some wide-spreading trees, or as they have nimbly bounded over the green lawn. On the slightest alarm, they lift their heads and erect their ears, and appear for a moment to listen; away they then start, and are soon out of sight behind the distant thicket of trees. This kind of deer is called fallow, that is, pale red, or yellow, in allusion to their colour. They are a small kind of stag, having a different kind of antlers, or horns growing from the head. They eat grass like oxen; and are very fond of the berries which grow on thorn trees. When these berries are out of their reach, they will give a spring, and entangle their horns in the lower boughs of a tree, shake the branches once or twice, to make the berries fall to the ground, and then quietly pick them up.

The flesh of this animal is called venison ; the horns are made into knife-handles, and the shavings are used to make hartshorn. The male is called a buck ; the female, which has no horns, a doe. Buckskin and doeskin are a soft kind of leather, which is used to make gloves and gaiters.

Though fallow-deer are meek-looking animals, they often fight amongst themselves. They have been seen to divide into two parties, and engage with each other most fiercely. Each party is led on by a chief, the oldest and strongest of the herd. They renew the fight every day, until the feeblest side is conquered.



THE STAG.

THE stag lives on the rocky waste, on the heathy mountain, and in the wooded plains. It is a beautiful animal : its stately walk, fine shape, noble antlers, and soft and sparkling eye, make it a most lovely object in the midst of a green landscape.

Its large horns are shed every year, and new

ones come in their place. The horns begin to appear when the animal is a year old. It eats slowly, and is very careful in the choice of the grass on which it feeds.

In England the colour of the stag is mostly of a reddish brown; in other countries, it is dark brown; there are also some instances in which it is white. It lives generally to the age of fifty.

The female stag takes great care of her young. She hides them in the thickest parts of the forest, and protects them with great courage from all attacks. When the hunters come near her hiding place, she starts before the hounds in an opposite direction, to draw them away from her young. After a chase of some hours she manages to return alone to her fawns, or young stags, whose lives she has saved at the hazard of her own.



THE BADGER.

THE badger is found in some parts of England, and is common in other lands. It is a lazy crea-

ture, sleeping in its hole all the day, and going abroad for a short time at night in search of wasps' nests, frogs, worms, and nuts. But the eggs of birds are its most dainty food. As it lives so well, it grows very fat. In some countries its flesh is considered good for food, and is said to eat like sucking-pig.

The badger has a long body, short legs, and strong claws. Its claws are of use in digging its deep hole in the earth. When caught young, it can be tamed, and may be taught to play with dogs, and even to follow its master from place to place. In its tame state, it is fond of lying before a fire, and will often approach so near as to burn itself severely.

The following anecdote of the badger will show its affection, and supply a useful lesson to the reader. Two persons in France were on a journey. Passing through a hollow way, a dog which was with them started a badger, and killed it. Being a few miles from a village, they dragged it after them, to sell the skin, as badgers' hair makes good brushes for painters. Not having a rope, they

twisted some twigs, and thus drew it along the road. They had not gone far when they heard the cry of an animal in distress, and stopped to listen, when they saw another badger come slowly towards them. They at first cast stones at it, but it still came forward, and threw itself on the dead animal, which it began to lick, and then raised another piteous cry. The men continued to draw along the dead badger with the living one upon it, nor could boys, dogs, or men force it from its place. In this way they entered the village, when, to their shame be it said, they burned the affectionate creature, because, as they foolishly and wickedly declared, it was "a witch."

I would not be a cruel boy
For all this world can give:
Why should I take away the joy
Of those who happy live?



THE FOX.

THE fox is met with in nearly every part of the world. Reynard, as he is often called, is famous for his cunning and tricks. During the day, he

snugly lurks near a village, and in the evening creeps into the farmer's rick-yard, and carries off any young lamb or fat goose that may come in his way. Or he steals into the warren in search of a rabbit, or into the woods to surprise the partridges on their nests. When the fox fails in these supplies, he is glad to put up with rats, moles, and any small birds he can catch.

The fox is very fond of grapes, as well as honey. When he attacks a bee-hive he is often set upon by all the stinging throng. This reception makes him retire; he then rolls himself on the ground, and crushes the bees that have fastened on his skin. Again and again he returns to the attack, until he has drawn off or driven away the bees, when he seizes the honeycomb as the reward of his victory.

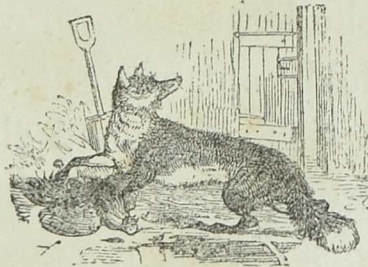
The fur of some kinds of foxes is much used in articles of dress. Thousands of skins of this animal are brought to England, every year, from the cold parts of North America.

When we read about the fox, we should not forget the affecting words of our Lord Jesus Christ :

“The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head,” Matt. viii. 20. He who is the Lord of glory and the King of kings was nursed in a manger, lived in poverty, and was without a home; and all this, and greater sufferings, he endured for all who by the grace of God truly believe in him; to all of whom it may be said, “Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich,” 2 Cor. viii. 9.

Every bird can build its nest,
Foxes have their place of rest;
He by whom this world was made
Had not where to lay his head.

He, who is the Lord most high,
Then was poorer far than I,
That I might hereafter be
Rich to all eternity



PICTURE IV.

THE HARE.

IN the heat of the day, the timid hare may be seen sitting on its form, or bed, in some retired corner in the copse, or under a hedge or bush; but in the dusk of the evening, or early dawn, it comes forth on the heath or field to feed. The ears move backwards and forwards as it listens to every sound, while its legs are gathered up ready for flight. It has no claws nor strength to resist its foes: its only chance of escape is from its quick sight and hearing, and the swiftness of its feet. When the moon shines bright a number of hares may be seen leaping and chasing one another, but at the least noise they take the alarm, and scamper quickly out of sight.

Hares are not without a good share of instinct. If one is pursued by dogs, it seeks rising ground, its long hind legs giving it great advantage in



running up a hill. The hare also changes its home as the seasons change. When hard pressed, this animal will mingle with a flock of sheep, or spring on an old wall, and hide itself among the grass on the top; or will cross a stream of water several times at short distances, to confuse the dogs which are in pursuit.

The poet Cowper has given a pleasing account of three hares which he tamed. He called them Puss, Tiny, and Bess. He built for them a small house to sleep in. In the day time they ran about the poet's room, and at night each retired to its own little bed to sleep. Puss was fond of leaping into its kind keeper's lap, when it would raise itself on its hind feet, and nibble the hair from his head. At times, it fell asleep on his knees. Finding it so tame, the poet used to carry it after breakfast into the garden, where it would hide itself under the leaves of some cucumber plants. Puss was always ready for this liberty. When the time came for it to go into the garden, it would run to Mr. Cowper, and drum on his knees; and then take the bottom of his coat

between its teeth, and pull with all its might. After supper the three hares were admitted into the parlour, where they loved to frisk, and play a thousand games, in which Puss always proved itself to be the strongest. One evening the cat, being in the room, patted Puss the hare, on the cheeks, which affront was resented by her drumming on the cat's back so violently, that she was glad to run away and hide herself.



THE RABBIT.

THIS animal is smaller than the hare, though it is like it in other respects. Rabbits live underground, in what are called burrows, which are deep holes dug by them in sandy hillocks. In these places they make beds of hair and soft hay. They will often pull the fur or down from their own breasts, to make comfortable nests for their young. When many of these burrows are together they form what is called a warren. The old rabbits sit at the entrance of these holes, holding their young between their paws, smooth

ing their hair, and fondling them with the greatest affection. When danger is near, one of the old rabbits who is on the watch, knocks with his hind-paws on the ground, and at this signal the rest seek for safety underground.

The rabbit will sometimes show a good share of courage in defence of its young. One fine day, a gentleman saw a rabbit sitting by its burrow, near the ruins of an old castle. Suddenly from a bush a large weasel darted to the spot, and tried to make its way into the burrow, in which, no doubt, were the rabbit's young ones. Every time the weasel ran forward the rabbit raised itself on its hind-legs, and with its fore-feet gave the intruder a smart knock on the head. The attack continued for a quarter of an hour, when the weasel crawled away as if it were stunned with the thumps it had received.

Tame rabbits are larger than wild ones, and their fur is almost of every colour, while wild ones are nearly always of one colour. The flesh of the rabbit is valued as an article of food, and its fur is much used in the manufacture of hats.

THE SQUIRREL.

THE common squirrel makes a nest of moss and dried leaves between two branches of a tree. The nest has two holes, at opposite sides; as the wind changes it shuts the opening towards that quarter, or when the rain falls, it closes up both ends with pine-cones. Though so playful, it is far from an idle animal: it busily provides for future wants, by laying up a store of nuts and berries as a winter's store. It places these in the hollow of a tree, and never touches them till they are needed. Some kinds of squirrels have their storehouses on the ground. They make several cells or rooms, which are joined by galleries: here they pile up their provision in much order. In the care and foresight with which they provide for the future their instinct serves them better than reason serves many men and children. God has given us nobler powers; how little do we employ them to the great end for which they were given!

When kept in a house, the squirrel is an amusing

little creature. It will become so tame and playful as to put its paws into its master's pockets in search of nuts. But it is seen to most advantage in its native woods, when the wild nuts are on the trees. Now you may behold it running down the trunk of a tree with its head foremost; and then, with a bound, you may see it playing at hide and seek among the branches. Perhaps, if you approach softly, you will find it perched on a bough, sitting upright, and holding in its fore-paws an acorn it has just plucked from the tree. How quickly it bites through the shell, and removes every part of the brown dry skin; and now the sweet kernel affords it a dainty treat!

Ah! there's the squirrel perch'd aloft,
That active little rover;
See, how he whisks his bushy tail,
Which covers him all over.

Now view him seated on a bough,
To crack his nuts at ease;
While blackbirds sing, and stock-doves coo,
Amid the leafy trees.

The light wind lifts his silken hair,
So long and loosely flowing;
His quick ear catches every sound:
How brisk he looks, and knowing!

With cunning glance he casts around
His merry, sparkling eye ;
In yonder hazel, by the brook,
Rich clusters he can spy.

His lofty station soon he quits,
To seize the precious store ;
You ne'er can catch him, dearest child,
The useless search give o'er.



THE MONKEY.

MONKEYS are of different kinds, as to size, colour, and general habits. They are very numerous in hot countries ; there is scarcely a forest that does not swarm with them. They nurse their young with great fondness, and seem never tired of playing with them. But, should the little ones prove stubborn or disobedient, they will often severely correct them.

When monkeys take up their abode near to cultivated fields they are very destructive. They assemble in great numbers, and destroy whole fields of sugar-canes or rice. It is not only what they eat, or carry away, but what they root up and trample down, that causes the greatest loss.

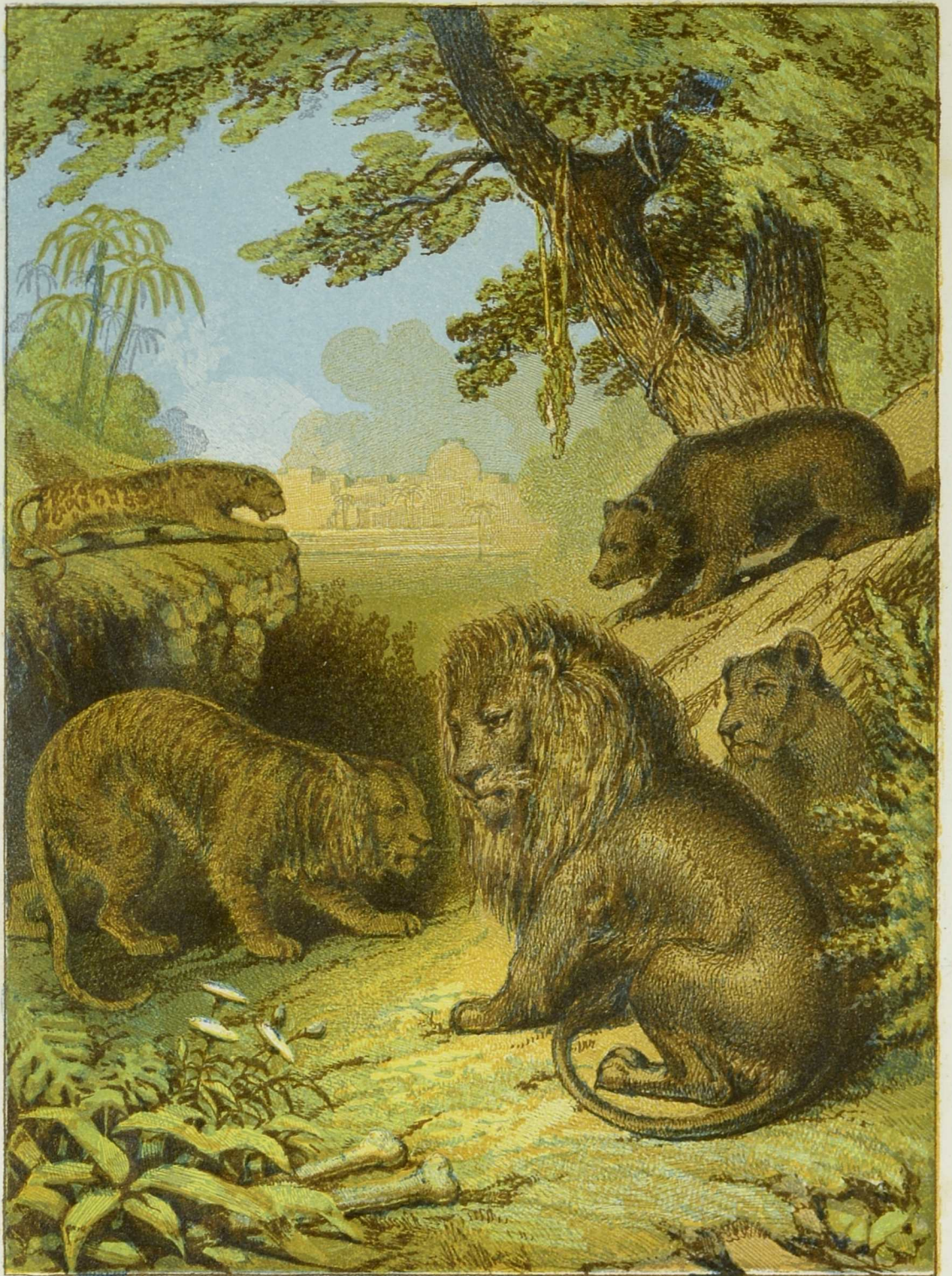
Some monkeys are fierce and powerful, and all are fond of mischief. They sadly tease all other animals that live near them; and many strange stories have been given of their tricks on more simple creatures than themselves. A lady, in her voyage from Africa, found several of the monkey tribe on board the ship, but "the prince of them all" was one named Jack. And many were the curious pranks which Jack played, and which the lady most pleasantly has related. A few of these tricks only can be here noticed.

Jack began the day by overturning the parrot's cage, in order to secure the lump of sugar, which then rolled out. He then went between-decks, and jerked off the sailors' nightcaps as they lay asleep, or ran away with their knives and clothes. When the cook was preparing for breakfast, he took his post in a corner near the grate, and slyly hooked out the biscuits which were toasting between the bars, though sometimes he burned his fingers in the attempt, which kept him quiet for a few days.

Two days in the week, the pigs, which formed part of the live stock, were allowed to run about

the deck, which afforded Jack fine sport. Hiding himself behind a cask, he would suddenly spring on the back of one of them, his face to the tail, and in this way enjoy a ride on the frightened pig. Then with a look of wonder he would stare at the sailors, who laughed at his pranks, as much as to say, What can you find to laugh at? One of his droll tricks was practised on a poor little black monkey. The men had been painting a part of the ship, and when they went to dinner below, they left their pot of white paint and brushes on the upper deck. Jack, as soon as the men were gone, invited the little black monkey to come to him, whom he seized with one hand, and with the other painted his victim from head to foot. Then, as if he bethought himself that he had done wrong, he scampered up the rigging to the maintop, where he stood with his nose between the bars, looking at what was going on below. There he remained for three days, until hunger made him descend, when he put himself in a lowly posture, as if to ask forgiveness for what he had done.*

* Mrs. Lee's Anecdotes of Animals.



PICTURE V.

THE LION.

THE lion is called the "king of the forest," from his bold and majestic look, and great strength. One blow of his paw has broken the back of a horse, and one sweep of his tail has thrown a strong man to the ground. He has been known to seize a heifer in his mouth, and carry it off, leaping over a broad ditch, with as much ease as a cat would run away with a mouse.

The length of the lion is from six to eight feet, and his tail four feet more. The general colour of his skin is a yellowish brown. A large mane falls over his neck, which becomes thicker and longer as the animal grows older. When he roars it is like distant thunder, and may be heard through the whole forest. At the sound all the other beasts take to flight. When he seizes on his prey, with a sudden bound, his yell is terrible.

Though so fierce, the lion has been tamed, and has shown much affection for its keeper. Some years ago there were shown in London a lion and lioness, attended by a negro. He had brought them up from cubs. They allowed him to enter their den in safety, when they played around him like kittens; and when he stamped his foot, they quietly laid themselves down at his feet.

The lioness is smaller than the lion, and is without the shaggy mane.

The Scriptures often allude to the lion. The young reader will not forget the account of Daniel in the den of lions, and how God was with him there, and kept the fierce beasts from hurting him.

Unhurt was Daniel found, but when
The king commandment gave,
To cast in all the wicked men,
The lions caught them in the den,
And there was none to save.

Ye that fear God, be not dismay'd
When troubles round you lower;
Let him be trusted and obey'd,
And you may then expect his aid
In every trying hour.

THE LEOPARD.

THE leopard has been termed "a large spotted cat," for it resembles a cat in shape and habits, and in the purring and mewing sounds it makes. The upper part of its body is of a tawny colour, prettily spotted with round black marks. Its hair is smooth and glossy, and its movements are very graceful and active. It is a native of Asia and Africa.

The leopard is a good climber, and pursues monkeys and other small animals along the boughs of trees. It mostly, however, lies crouching beneath the tall grass, or on the side of a rock, from whence it springs upon its prey. When hungry, it strolls around towns, and will leap over high walls into a fold, and then back again with a large sheep in its mouth.

Many accounts are given of the slyness and cruelty of the leopard. A male and female leopard, with three young ones, entered a sheepfold at the Cape of Good Hope. The old ones killed a large number of the flock, and drank their

blood. They then tore a sheep into three pieces, and gave a portion to each of their young ones, while they loaded themselves with a whole sheep apiece. As they were moving off, they were seen; and the female and three young ones were killed, while the male made his escape.

The negroes take these beasts by means of pits, slightly covered with boughs and earth. A piece of flesh is placed as a bait, which when they attempt to secure, they fall into the trap, and are slain.



THE BEAR.

THERE are three kinds of bears: the brown bear of Europe, the black bear of America, and the white bear of Greenland. Their nature is alike suited to the snow and ice of the coldest countries, and to the heat of the warmest lands.

The body of the bear is thick, strong, and covered with a coarse kind of fur. It lives on flesh, fruit, and, indeed, almost every eatable thing it can find. It climbs the highest trees in search of eggs, dives into the sea in pursuit of fish, and

pounces on the horse as it passes its den. Those who have visited the Zoological Gardens in London, have seen the power of the bear in climbing up a poll.

In Northern Asia, the bear is of as much value to the natives as the sheep is to us. From the skin they make cloaks, beds, caps, gloves, shoes, and harness for their sledges. Its fat serves as oil for their lamps, and its flesh is a dainty dish for their tables. Portions of the stomach and other inner parts are dried and spread out, and are so clear as to serve for windows to their log houses. Of the shoulder-bones sickles are made, to cut grass in summer; and the fur is used for muffs in winter.

The white bear is often seen on the floating ice far out at sea. In winter, it crawls in among masses of snow, and remains torpid, or asleep, till the return of a warmer season. It is very fond of its cubs, and will never desert them in danger, but when the shot are flying thickly around, instead of trying to escape, the she-bear will stay by them, and lick their wounds, if they are shot, till she falls, shot also.

Bears, when tamed, are fond of fun, and many are the amusing pranks in which they engage; though sometimes their tricks occasion danger to others. A young English officer, who was stationed at a lone fortress in North America, amused himself by taming a white-bear species. He taught him to fetch and carry, to follow him like a dog, and to wait patiently at meal-time for his share. He took the bear with him when he returned to England, and he became a great favourite with the passengers, and the ship's company. The bear, however, especially attached himself to a little girl, about four years old, the daughter of one of the ladies on board, who romped with him as she would with a dog. In one of these games of play, he seized her with one fore paw, and with the other clambered and clung to the rigging till he lodged her and himself in the main top, where, regardless of her cries, and the agony of her mother, he tried to continue his romp.

It would not do to pursue the pair, for fear the bear should drop the child; and his master knowing how fond he was of sugar, had some mattresses

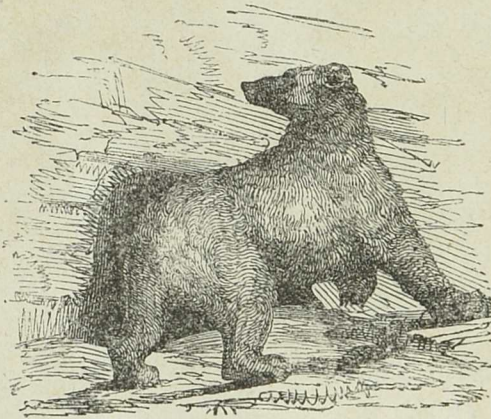
placed round the mast, in case the child should fall, and then strewed a quantity of sugar on the deck; he called the bear, and pointed to it, who, after a moment's hesitation, came down as he went up, bringing the child in safety. He was of course deprived of his liberty during the rest of his voyage.

In the winter, bears retire to their caves in the mountains, and when the spring returns, they come down in great numbers to feed on the fish in the rivers. If they should happen to find the nets set by the fishermen, they contrive to draw them ashore, and feast upon the fish.

In Germany the bear is often caught in a pit, which is loosely covered with sticks or turf, on which a pot of honey is put as a bait. As the bear is very fond of honey, he is soon drawn to the place, and falls into the snare. They have also a relish for peas and beans, which they rub out of the pods against a stone, or some rocky ground; and they not only devour the seeds, but carry off the green straw to their dens for a bedding.

Bears were formerly found in a wild state in England, but many ages have passed since one of these animals has crossed one of our forests, or alarmed the shepherd while watching his flock.

The bear is referred to in the Scriptures, particularly on one sad occasion, when forty-two wicked youths at Bethel were torn to death by two she-bears. These youths mocked the prophet Elisha, and in so doing insulted God, who thus punished them for their daring sin, 2 Kings ii. 23.





PICTURE VI.

THE ELEPHANT.

THE elephant is a noble animal, standing from nine to twelve feet high. He is not only the largest and strongest, but is one of the most gentle of creatures. He is acute and discerning, and grows very fond of those who use him kindly. He moves quickly, and can travel at the rate of fifty miles a day. He can carry a load of two thousand pounds on his back, or drag a weight that would be too heavy for six horses.

He is found wild in the woods of Africa and Asia, where large herds feed together. Young shoots of trees, and grain, serve for his food. He is very fond of sweetmeats and the smell of flowers. The most curious limb of the elephant is his trunk, which serves him instead of arms and hands. Not only has he the power of moving his trunk, but he can bend it, shorten it, lengthen it, turn it back,

and in every direction. The point is like a finger, and by it he can pick up a pin or a sixpence, gather flowers one by one, untie knots, open and shut doors, and turn the key or force back the bolt. Such is the strength he puts forth, that with the trunk he can tear up trees by the roots, or twine round a man's body, and lift him above his head with ease.

A tame elephant took a great liking to a young child, and seemed only happy when she was near him. The nurse used to take the infant in her cradle, and place her between the elephant's feet. When the child slept, he not only rocked the cradle, but drove off the flies with his trunk. Another elephant was fond of putting his trunk under the arm of a little girl, who came every morning into the place where he was kept, and in this manner tried to walk by her side, carefully avoiding treading on her with his great and heavy feet.

A very affecting story is told of an elephant. This animal broke loose one dark night from a camp near Cawnpore, and ran wild among the

tents, roaring and trumpeting with his trunk, and driving before him men, women, children, camels, cows, and horses. He was followed in his flight by swordmen and spearmen, who shouted and called; but, regardless of the noise, he still ran on, pushing down the tents, upsetting everything that came in his way, wounding and injuring many, and at last killing his keeper with a blow of his great trunk. The moment the poor man fell, and the elephant saw that he did not rise, he suddenly stopped, seemed concerned, looked at him with an eye of pity, and stood fixed to the spot. He paused for a few seconds, then ran towards the place from whence he had broken loose, and went quietly to his station, in front of which lay a little girl, about two years old, the daughter of the poor keeper. In a moment he took the child gently round the waist, lifted it from the ground, and caressed and fondled it for some time. Every beholder trembled for its safety, and expected that it would share the fate of its poor father. But no; the tired creature, having turned the child round three times, quietly laid it down, and

drew some clothing on it that had fallen off. After this, he stood over the child, with his eyes fixed upon it; "and if," said the narrator, "I did not see the penitential tear steal from his eye, I have never seen it in my life." He then submitted to be chained by some other keepers, and stood motionless and dejected, as if aware that he had done a wrong he could not repair. His sorrow became more and more plain as he stood and gazed on the fatherless babe, who, without any fear, played with its trunk. From this time the animal was quiet, and he always seemed delighted when the little orphan was in sight. Many persons went to see the noble creature fondling his adopted; but there was a visible alteration in his health: he fell away, and died at Cawnpore six months after.

The elephant has two large tusks, which are of ivory, and grow from the upper part of the head. With these tusks he opposes his foes: either by thrusting them through, or by tossing them into the air, and then stamping on them with his feet.

In eastern countries, the king and other great people ride on the backs of elephants, which are covered with very rich trappings. Their usual colour is a dusky black; but a few are white. The value of a white elephant is very great: it is almost honoured as a god by the heathen. A palace is built for its use, and the most precious jewels are hung about its neck. A large number of servants wait upon it, and feed it with the choicest food out of golden dishes.



THE CAMEL.

THE Arabs call the camel "the ship of the desert," as by it they make long journeys over dreary parts of the earth, which could not be crossed by horses or other beasts of burden. To enable it to do this, it can store in one of its five stomachs a large supply of water, which it uses, when needed, to refresh its mouth or soften its food. It can bear hunger for a long time, and then a few dates or beans satisfy it. Its hoofs also are suited to the soft and hot sand of the desert. We see how

God provides for the beasts, in fitting them to live in the very places he puts them in.

The camel has such a keen sense of smell, that it will perceive the wells of water when they are two miles off, and hasten towards them when his thirsty master would not know which road to take.

When a camel is used for a journey, a high saddle is put upon its back; and fine trappings, with little bells, are thrown upon its body. The tinkling of the bells is said to be very agreeable to it when crossing a desert. It is not so pleasant to ride on a camel as on a horse. The animal is made to kneel: when the rider gets on the saddle, it first raises its hind legs, which tosses the traveller forward; then it gets on its fore feet, when he is thrown back. Its pace is very unpleasant to a stranger; and, after a day's journey, he is well tired of such kind of riding. Sometimes the poor camel falls in the desert, from thirst or fatigue. If it does not quickly rise, it is left to die alone, its eyes following its master, who is obliged to hasten on his way, lest he also should perish in the wilderness.

A camel, when full grown, is about seven feet high, and will bear a load of one thousand pounds. When about to receive its burden, it kneels down till it is told to rise. But it makes a loud cry when its load is too heavy. The camel will remember an injury for a long time, until it can avenge it; but is satisfied if it can believe that it has done it. When an Arab has offended his camel, he arranges his clothes in a spot which it will pass, so as to resemble himself sleeping under them. The animal sees the clothes, seizes them with its teeth, and tramples on them. Its rage is then at an end, and the owner may appear again, and load it as he pleases. It is very cruel to overload and ill treat such a useful and patient animal.

The Arabians say that the camel is the gift of God, without which they could not trade, travel, or live. Its milk is their usual food; they also eat its flesh, and make clothes and tents of its hair. Sandals, or shoes for the feet, and buckets for water, are made of its hide. John the Baptist wore a garment of camel's hair.

One kind of camel, a native of Asia, has two lumps on its back; that which has only one is called a dromedary.



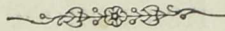
THE GIRAFFE.

THE giraffe, in ancient times, was called a camelopard, because it is somewhat similar to a camel in form, and is spotted like a leopard. When standing with its head and neck erect, the giraffe measures sixteen or eighteen feet in height. Its long neck adapts it to feed on the branches of trees, which it seizes with its tongue.

It is a very graceful and beautiful animal, and is mild and gentle in its temper. The gentleman who sent the first live giraffes to England says, "I have seen some of them shed tears when they no longer saw their companions, or the persons who are in the habit of attending on them."

When pursued, the camelopard trots so fast, that even a good horse at a gallop can scarcely keep pace with it. A female giraffe was taken to

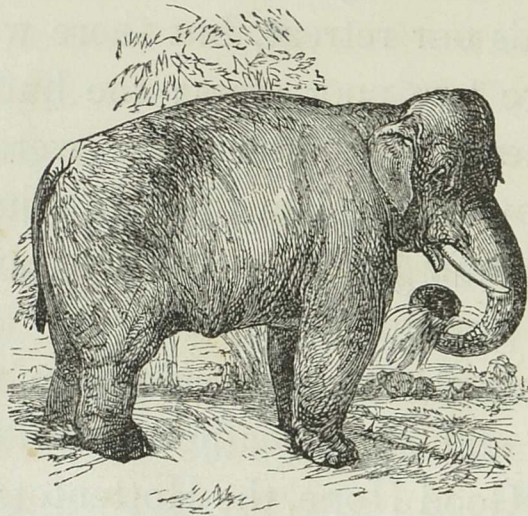
Paris, and thousands of persons went to see her. There were several natives of the East at that time in the French city, and they also paid her a visit. The moment she beheld their head-dresses, or turbans, she stretched out her long neck and licked their foreheads, no doubt remembering that they were those of the people among whom she had been brought up. Her love for roses was great, and she eagerly snatched them from those who carried them ; and many were astonished at the distance she could reach in taking these flowers from the hands of the spectators.



THE BUFFALO.

THE buffalo is of the ox tribe. It is a native of South Africa, and parts of Asia and Europe. At first sight, the buffalo looks very much like the cow, but it is unlike it in several respects. The buffalo is more clumsy, and has a wilder look. It carries its head nearer the ground, its body is shorter, its horns not so round, and its tail less

and is of service in drawing the plough or the wagon. But in other parts of the earth it is dreaded as among the most savage of animals. It crouches in a swamp, or hides near the pathway of a wood, ready to rush on any traveller or animal that may pass along. Though it has strong horns, it mostly kills those it attacks by trampling on them with its feet.



CONCLUSION.

WHEN we see how fierce some creatures are, and how powerful in destroying life, we should be thankful that we live in a land where we are far away from such kind of danger. Instead of the lion, the tiger, and the buffalo, we have the sheep, the dog, and the cow. We may walk in our fields, or ramble through our woods, without the fear of being surprised by creatures who are as powerful as they are savage. We may, however, be sure that God has made nothing in vain: every creature has its proper place in his creation, and all obey the laws under which he has placed them. How sad, then, it is that *we only* should disobey the

law of our Creator! He has placed *us* not only under laws which concern the life of our bodies, but under a law which relates to our minds, which is called the *moral* law. It tells us our duty to God, and our duty to man. And that we might know and understand what he would have us to do, he has given us not only instinct, such as the beasts possess, but he has endowed us also with reason. We have, however, not done what the law teaches us to do, nor attended to what it teaches us to shun. We have become sinners in the sight of God.

And then, too, God has created us not merely for this life, he has made us to live for ever. We are raised above all other creatures on earth, for he has given unto each of us a living soul. While the other tribes of creatures die, and pass away as if they had never been, our souls can never die. Is it not, then, a serious question, What will become of our souls if we remain offenders against the laws of our God? The Bible gives the answer, We shall in that case be miserable for ever. But it also tells us, how great is the love

and pity of God towards us: that he sent his Son Jesus Christ to redeem us, by his obedience and sufferings, from the punishment that would otherwise come upon us. We are invited to receive this Saviour by faith, to give him the best love of our hearts, and the best service of our lives. And to those who believe and obey, is the promise given, that when their days on this earth are ended, instead of their spirits being sent away from God, they will enter into rest, and enjoy the happiness of heaven for ever and ever.

“ ALL THY WORKS PRAISE THEE.”

PRAISE ye the Lord ! 't is good to raise
Our hearts and voices in his praise ;
His nature and his works invite
To make this duty our delight.

He form'd the stars, those heavenly flames,
He counts their numbers, calls their names ;
His wisdom's vast, and knows no bound,
A deep where all our thoughts are drown'd.

Sing to the Lord, exalt him high,
Who spreads his clouds around the sky ;
There he prepares the fruitful rain,
Nor lets the drops descend in vain.

He makes the grass the hills adorn,
And clothes the smiling fields with corn ;
The beasts with food his hands supply,
And the young ravens when they cry.

His saints are lovely in his sight !
He views his children with delight ;
He sees their hope, he knows their fear,
And loves his holy image there.



